New Hampshire
Research Outline

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This outline describes major sources of information about families from New Hampshire, including census, vital, cemetery, probate, land, tax, town, church, and military records for most of the towns and family and local histories. As you read this outline, study the United States Research Outline (30972), which will help you understand terminology and the contents and uses of genealogical records.

ACCESSING RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

The Family History Library has most of the records described in this outline. Some of the descriptions list the Family History Library’s book, microfilm, microfiche, compact disc, and computer numbers. These are preceded by FHL, the abbreviation for Family History Library. Use these numbers to locate materials in the library and to order microfilm and microfiche at Family History Centers.

The Computer Number Search is the fastest way to find a source in the catalog. You can use the computer number if you have access to the Family History Library Catalog on computer. Sources found on the Internet are cited in this outline with their Universal Resource Locator (URL) address.

FAMILYSEARCH™

FamilySearch at Family History Centers. FamilySearch is a collection of computer files containing millions of names and is a good place to begin your family history research. Some of the records come from compiled sources; some have been extracted from original sources. The Family History Library and many Family History Centers have computers with FamilySearch. A few FamilySearch resource files—for example, the U.S. Social Security Death Index, and the U.S. Military Index—are found on the Family History Library and Family History Center version of FamilySearch, but not on the FamilySearch Internet Genealogy Service.

Family History Library and Family History Center computers with FamilySearch do not have access to the Internet, computer on-line services, networks, or bulletin boards. Those services are available at many public libraries, college libraries, and private locations. Limited access to the Internet is available on a few computers in the Automated Resource Center in the Family History Library.

Family Search Internet Genealogy Service. The Internet site at www.familysearch.org allows you to preserve your genealogy, order Family History Library publications, learn research strategies, and look for information about your ancestors in the following resources:

Ancestral File, a file of over 35 million names organized into families and pedigrees.
International Genealogical Index, an index of over 360 million names extracted out of vital records primarily from the British Isles, North America, and northern Europe.
Family History Library Catalog, a description and classification of over 2 million microfilm reels and hundreds of thousands of genealogical books. You can search the catalog by family name, locality, author, book, or film number.
SourceGuide, a resource that contains over 150 “how-to” research outlines for states, nations, or genealogy topics; an extensive glossary of word meanings; and a catalog helper.
Family History Centers, a list of locations where you can order the microfilms described in the Family History Library Catalog and SourceGuide.
Web Sites, a categorized list of thousands of links to Internet sites related to family history.
Collaboration Lists links you to user-created mailing lists of researchers interested in similar genealogical topics.
The library’s records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog, which is available at the library, at each Family History Center, and on the Internet at: www.familysearch.org/Search/searchcatalog.asp.

To find a record in the Family History Library Catalog, look in the Locality Search for:

- The **place** where your ancestor lived:
  - UNITED STATES - CENSUS
  - NEW HAMPSHIRE - VITAL RECORDS
  - NEW HAMPSHIRE, HILLSBOROUGH - PROBATE RECORDS
  - NEW HAMPSHIRE, HILLSBOROUGH, NASHUA - TOWN RECORDS

The section headings in this outline match the names of record types used in the Family History Library Catalog.

### RECORD SELECTION TABLE: NEW HAMPSHIRE

This table can help you decide which records to search. It is most helpful for research from 1800 to the present.

1. In column 1, select a research goal.
2. In column 2, find the types of records most likely to have the information you need.
3. In column 3, find additional record types that may be useful.
4. Look in the section of this outline that corresponds to the record type you chose. It explains what the records might tell you, how to search them, and how to find the records in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog. Some records are not at the Library.
5. If you do not find the desired information see the Records Selection Table in the United States Research Outline (30972) for more suggestions.

Note: Records of previous research (such as Genealogy, Biography, History, Periodicals, and Societies) are useful for most goals but are not listed unless they are especially helpful.

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<td>Places of residence when you know only the state</td>
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ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

In addition to the Family History Library, other record repositories with major collections and services for genealogists are described below. The Family History Library has copies of many of the records at these archives, but most repositories will have additional sources. They often have compiled biographies and family and local histories. Some have maps, gazetteers, and other place-finding aids. When one of these institutions is referred to elsewhere in this outline, return to this section for the address or web site.

- New Hampshire Department of State
  Division of Records Management and Archives
  71 South Fruit Street
  Concord, NH 03301
  Telephone: 603-271-2236
  Fax: 603-271-2272
  Internet address: [www.sos.nh.gov/archives/](http://www.sos.nh.gov/archives/)

  An inventory for this repository is:

- National Archives-Northeast Region (Boston)
  380 Trapelo Road
  Waltham, MA 02154
  Telephone: 781-663-0130
  Fax: 781-663-0154
  Internet address: [www.archives.gov/northeast/boston](http://www.archives.gov/northeast/boston)

- New Hampshire State Library
  20 Park Street
  Concord, NH 03301
  Telephone: 603-271-6823 or 2144
  Fax: 603-271-2205
  Internet address: [www.nh.gov/nhsl/index.html](http://www.nh.gov/nhsl/index.html)

- The University of New Hampshire Library
  Dimond Library Special Collections
  18 Library Way
  Durham, NH 03824
  Telephone: 603-862-2714
  Internet address: [www.izaak.unh.edu/](http://www.izaak.unh.edu/)

- New England Historic Genealogical Society
  101 Newbury Street
  Boston, MA 02116
  Telephone: 617-536-5740
  Internet address: [www.nehgs.org](http://www.nehgs.org)

- Massachusetts State Archives
  Columbia Point
  220 Morrissey Blvd.
  Boston, MA 02125
  Telephone: 617-727-2816
  Internet address: [www.state.ma.us/sec/arc/arcfam/famidx.htm](http://www.state.ma.us/sec/arc/arcfam/famidx.htm)

COMPUTER NETWORKS AND BULLETIN BOARDS

Computers with modems are important tools for obtaining information, including information from selected archives and libraries. The Internet, certain computer bulletin boards, and commercial on-line services help family history researchers:

- Locate other researchers.
- Post queries.
- Send and receive e-mail.
- Search large databases.
- Search computer libraries and on-line catalogs.
- Join in computer chat and lecture sessions.

You can find computerized research tips and information about ancestors from New Hampshire in a variety of sources at local, state, national, and international levels. The list of sources is growing rapidly, and most of the information is available at no cost. The following sites are gateways linking you to more network and bulletin board sites (addresses are subject to change):

FamilySearch Internet Genealogy Service. [Salt Lake City]: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 22 March 1999 [cited 6 August 1999]. Available at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org). At this site you can access the Family History Library Catalog, Ancestral File, International Genealogical Index, SourceGuide, lists of Family History Centers, web sites related to family history, and lists of researchers interested in similar genealogical topics. You can also learn about and order Family History Library publications.

and describes more resources than any other site on the Internet.

“New Hampshire USGenWeb.” In The USGenWeb Project. N.p., 10 November 1999 [cited 14 December 1999]. Available at www.rootsweb.com/usgenweb/nh. This is a cooperative effort by many volunteers to list genealogical databases, libraries, bulletin boards, and other resources available on the Internet for each county, state, and country.


Guant, Christine. “New Hampshire Resources.” In Genealogy Resources on the Internet. N.p., 6 December 1999 [cited 14 December 1999]. Available at www-personal.umich.edu/~cgaunt/newhamp.html. This site provides links to vital record offices, genealogical and historical societies, queries, mailing lists, county-by-county Internet sites, and gopher sites.


For further details about using computer networks, bulletin boards, and news groups for family history research see the United States Research Outline (30972), 2nd ed., “Archives and Libraries” section.

Some Family History Centers have computers with FamilySearch. These computers do not have access to on-line services, networks, or bulletin boards. You can use these services at many public libraries, college libraries, and private locations. Further inventories and other information about New Hampshire archives and libraries can be found in the Family History Library Catalog Locality Search under:

NEW HAMPSHIRE - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES
NEW HAMPSHIRE, [COUNTY] - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES
NEW HAMPSHIRE, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

BIBLE RECORDS

Many families traditionally recorded genealogies in their family Bibles. They are a good source of information about immediate family members and relatives. They may include names of parents, children, and spouses plus their dates of birth, marriage, and death. For some families, Bible records may have the only information of this kind. Family Bibles that are no longer in the family may be at a historical or genealogical society.

New Hampshire Historical Society. Card File I Index to Bible Records. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1975. (FHL film 1001441 item 2; computer number 81350.) The New Hampshire Historical Society has a large Bible records collection. The card file index lists family surnames in alphabetical order and the call numbers of the records at the New Hampshire Historical Society. For the address of the society, see “Societies” in this outline.


Kirkham, E. Kay. An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States. 2 vols. Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1984. (FHL book 973 D22k v.2; fiche 6089184; computer number 298346.) This is a partial index to the records of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution concerning families in the United States. Volume two shows those families in the northern states. The index to the New England section is on pages 1–49.

The Family History Library has many miscellaneous records of family Bibles. To locate
those in New Hampshire, see the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

NEW HAMPSHIRE - BIBLE RECORDS

BIOGRAFHY

A biography is a history of a person’s life. In a biography you may find the individual’s birth, marriage, and death information and the names of his or her parents, children, or other family members. Biographies often include photographs, family traditions and stories, clues to an ancestor’s place of origin, places where he or she has lived, church affiliation, professional accomplishments, military service, and activities within the community. The information must be used carefully since there may be some inaccuracies.

Major Biographical Collections

A large collection of published biographies for the state is at the New Hampshire Historical Society and the Family History Library.

New Hampshire Historical Society. New Hampshire Notables Card File. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1988. (FHL films 1570255-62; computer number 539020.) This file is an index to biographical sketches of people who were born in New Hampshire or spent a large portion of their lives there. It also has a collection of obituaries and brief biographies found in New Hampshire newspapers. There are about 30,000 cards, which contain full names, places and dates of birth, and titles of the source. Cards are being continually added to the file.


Biographical Encyclopedias


Metcalf, Henry Harrison. One Thousand New Hampshire Notables. Concord, N.H.: Rumford Printing, 1919. (FHL book 974.2 D3m; film 1697374 item 9; computer number 143267.) This large volume contains brief biographical sketches of New Hampshire men and women who have been prominent in public, professional, business, educational, fraternal or benevolent work. It includes portraits and an index.

Metcalf, Henry Harrison. New Hampshire Women. Concord, N.H.: New Hampshire Publishing, 1895. (FHL book 974.2 D3mn; computer number 143619.) This source is a collection of portraits and biographical sketches of women, both residents and daughters of residents, who are worthy representatives of their sex.

Moses, George H. New Hampshire Men. Concord, N.H.: New Hampshire Printing, 1893. (FHL film 1033785 item 10; computer number 83883.) This work is a collection of biographical sketches, with portraits, of residents and sons of residents who have become known in commercial, professional and political life.


Sketches of Successful New Hampshire Men. Manchester, N.H.: John B. Clarke, 1882. (FHL book 974.2 D3s; film 1000197 item 4; computer number 63357.) Includes extensive biographies and genealogies, portraits, and an index.

The Surname Search of the Family History Library Catalog will lead you to biographies and published family histories on specific surnames. Using the term “New Hampshire” in the Keyword Search will help limit the extent of the search to families in New Hampshire.

The Family History Library has many collected biographies and local county histories with biographical sketches of residents. These can be found in the Family History Library Catalog Locality Search under:

NEW HAMPSHIRE - BIOGRAPHY
NEW HAMPSHIRE, [COUNTY], - BIOGRAPHY
NEW HAMPSHIRE, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - BIOGRAPHY
CEMETERIES

Cemetery records often include birth, marriage, and death information. They sometimes have insignia or symbols that provide clues about military service, religion, or membership in a service or fraternal organization. Nearby markers may help identify children who died young or women who were not recorded in family or government documents.

The New Hampshire Historical Society has an extensive collection of cemetery records. Use the historical society’s Internet site for a catalog listing of this collection (see “Societies” in this outline for the Internet address). Some records have been microfilmed and are at the Family History Library. Two FHL microfilms, 15566 and 165996, contain some of these cemetery records with various authors, publishers, and computer numbers. Other collections include:

Goss, Mrs. Charles C. Colonial Gravestone Inscriptions in the State of New Hampshire: Published by the Historic Activities Committee of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of New Hampshire, From Collections Made by Committees From 1913 to 1942. Dover, N.H.: National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of New Hampshire, 1942. (FHL book 974.2 V3g; film 823810 item 3; computer number 146829.) It is indexed in:


Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, The, New England Mission. Cemetery Records of New Hampshire. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1960. (FHL 974.2 V3c; film 908584 item 2; computer number 75924.) Names are alphabetically arranged within each cemetery listed.

A county-by-county list of cemetery record transcripts, and the book and film numbers to locate them at the Family History Library as of 1988, is:

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, The, Family History Library (Salt Lake City, Utah.) Index to United States Cemeteries, Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1988. (FHL films 1206468-94; computer number 475648.) New Hampshire is on film 1206479.

An additional source for New Hampshire cemetery records is:

New Hampshire Old Graveyard Association
Internet address: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nhoga/index.htm

Internet Tombstone Transcripts and Index

Genealogical society members often copy and publish tombstone inscriptions. The USGenWeb Archives have records from cemeteries listed on their Internet site at:

“The New Hampshire Tombstone Transcription Project.” In USGenWeb Archives Digital Library. N.p.: USGenWeb Archives, 24 October 1999 [cited 14 December 1999]. Available at www.rootsweb.com/~cemetery/newhamp.html. This is a county-by-county list of cemeteries. The highlighted cemeteries include tombstone abstracts. Abstracted cemeteries are indexed in:

“Search the USGenWeb Archives Digital Library” In USGenWeb Archives Digital Library. N.p.: USGenWeb Archives, 22 September 1997 [cited 14 December 1999]. Available at www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/ussearch.htm. This Internet site indexes cemetery abstracts and other items. Select the state, type the name of the ancestor you are researching in the “Query” field, and click the Search button. For best results, use the “Search Tips” and examples at the bottom of the web page. The computer will list any matches it finds and give you the option of viewing the full transcript.

Cemetery records can be found by using the Family History Library Catalog Locality Search under:

NEW HAMPSHIRE - CEMETERIES
NEW HAMPSHIRE, [COUNTY] - CEMETERIES
NEW HAMPSHIRE, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - CEMETERIES
CENSUS

A census is a count and description of the population of a country, territory, state, county or city. A well-indexed census is one of the easiest ways to locate the specific places where your ancestors lived and to identify the dates when they lived there. You also can find family information, particularly in more recent censuses. Use the information with caution. The facts may have been given to a census taker by any member of the family or by a neighbor.

Federal Censuses

Population Schedules (1790–1920). Federal censuses have been taken every ten years, beginning with 1790. At present, these records are available through 1920. Many federal census records are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other repositories. The United States Research Outline (30972) provides more detailed information about these records.

The Family History Library has microfilms of the New Hampshire federal censuses, from 1790 to 1920. The New Hampshire State Library has copies of these same censuses.

The 1800 census is missing for the towns of Alton, Barnstead, Brookfield, Effingham, Gilmanton, Middleton, New Durham, Ossipee, Tuftonborough, Wakefield, and Wolfeborough in Strafford County. Fortunately, the 1798 Direct Tax for many of these towns exists and serves as a census substitute. See the “Taxation” section of this outline. The 1800 census is also missing the towns of Akinsson, Greenland, Hampton, Hampton Falls, Londonderry, Northampton, Pelham, Plaistow, Salem, Seabrook, Stratham, and Windham in Rockingham County.

The 1820 census is missing for Grafton County and the Rockingham County towns of Gosport, Greenland, New Castle, Newington, Portsmouth, and Rye. Most of the census for Strafford County is missing except for the towns of Centre Harbor, Gilford, Moultonborough, New Hampton, and Sanbornton.

Before the boundary dispute was settled in 1842, many residents of northern Coos County considered themselves within Canadian jurisdiction, so the Coos County census may be incomplete before 1850.

Statewide indexes represent almost every household in the New Hampshire censuses. For most families, they index only the first person listed in each household, who was usually the father or head of the household. Many families, however, had relatives or friends with a different surname living with them when the census was taken. In those cases, the first person of each surname in the household is included in the index.

Statewide indexes are available for the 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, and 1860 federal censuses in book, microfiche, and compact disc formats. Soundex (phonetic) indexes are available for part of the 1880 census (those indexed are households with children born between 1870 and 1880). There is a Soundex index for all households in the 1900 and 1920 censuses. The 1910 census does not have a Soundex index.

Countywide indexes to federal censuses often contain the names of every person in the household and may also include heads of households that were overlooked or whose names were misspelled in statewide indexes. Countywide indexes are listed in the Family History Library Catalog Locality Search under:

NEW HAMPSHIRE, [COUNTY] - CENSUS - [YEAR]

Multi-State Indexes. Some of the statewide indexes mentioned previously are combined into composite master indexes of several census years, states, and census types:

FamilyFinder™ Index and Viewer. Version 4.0.
Family Tree Maker Archives, index. [Novato, Calif.]: Broderbund Software, 1997. (FHL compact disc no. 9 1997 index; computer number 808500.) This does not circulate to Family History Centers. It is a single composite index to early tax lists, 1790-1860 federal censuses, and the 1890 veterans census. An Internet edition of this index is also available:

“Internet FamilyFinder.” In FamilyTreeMaker.com. [Novato, Calif.]: Broderbund Software, 21 July 1999 [cited 4 January 2000]. Available at www.familytreemaker.com/allsearch.html. You can search the “Internet FamilyFinder” index for free. It displays the census year and state for each name matching the search. It may also list many vital records and genealogical collection citations. Once you know the census year and state, you must use the original index on compact disc, microfiche, or book to obtain enough data to easily find the name in the original census
schedules. Similar index information is also available at the [www.Ancestry.com/census](http://www.Ancestry.com/census) Internet site for a subscription fee. The FamilyFinder Index includes the following Jackson indexes:


When indexes are not available or omit a name, you can still look for the name in the census. For large cities it helps to first learn the person’s address by searching the city directory for the same year as the census (see the “Directories” section of this outline). Then look for that address on the original census schedules.

The following reference tools help determine which census schedule microfilm and enumeration district to search for specific addresses:


- 1880 FHL film 1402862; computer number 299426.
- 1900 FHL film 1303024; computer number 117685.
- 1910 FHL film 1374007; computer number 176643.
- 1920 FHL film 1842711; computer number 687949.


**Veterans Schedules (1840 and 1890).** In the 1840 federal census a listing was made of the Revolutionary War veterans, giving their age, residence, and the name of the head of the household. The following index lists these veterans for all states:

*A General Index to a Census of Pensioners for Revolutionary or Military Service, 1840*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1965. (FHL book 973 X2pc 1965 index; fiche 6046771; computer number 270948; film 899835; computer number 271067.) The book with the actual 1840 census information is:

*A Census of Pensioners for Revolutionary or Military Service: With Their Names, Ages, and Places of Residence, as Returned by the Marshals of the Several Judicial Districts, Under the Act for Taking the Sixth Census*. Washington D.C.: Blair and Rives, 1841. (FHL book 973 X2pc 1840; film 1064759 item 3; computer number 270766.)

The 1890 census was destroyed, but the 1890 Union veterans and veterans’ widows schedule and index are at the Family History Library and the National Archives on film. See the “Census” section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for more detailed information on this special census schedule.


**Mortality Schedules (1850–1880).** The Division of Records Management and Archives has mortality schedules that list people who died during the 12 months before the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses were taken. In addition to providing the same information about the deceased person that the regular census schedules provided for the living, mortality schedules also state the month, cause of death, and the number of days ill. The New Hampshire mortality schedules exist for all four of these censuses. Microfilm copies of the schedules are available at the Family History Library:
Colonial Censuses

Enumerations of colonial residents were made in New Hampshire for various years prior to the federal census. Lists of early residents from 1732 to 1742 that can be used as substitutes for census records are found in the tax records of the towns. These are described in the “Taxation” section of this outline. A list of male residents in 1776 is:

Holbrook, Jay Mack. New Hampshire 1776 Census. Oxford, Mass.: Holbrook Research Institute, 1976. (FHL book 974.2 X2h 1776; computer number 153258.) This book lists the name, town and county of residence, whether they were for or against the Revolutionary War, and the page number from volume 30 of the New Hampshire State Papers.

New Hampshire census records can be found in the Family History Library Catalog Locality Search under:

NEW HAMPSHIRE - CENSUS
NEW HAMPSHIRE, [COUNTY] - CENSUS
NEW HAMPSHIRE - CENSUS - [YEAR] - INDEXES

CHURCH RECORDS

Church records, and the information they provide, vary greatly depending on the denomination and the record keeper. They may contain information about members of the congregation such as age, date of baptism, christening or birth, marriage information and maiden name, death date and burial, and admissions and removals. Since your ancestors may have changed their religious affiliations during the years, several denomination records may have to be searched.

Before 1900 the largest religious denominations in New Hampshire were the Baptist, Congregational, Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Roman Catholic churches. In early New Hampshire the Congregational church predominated.

Lawrence, Robert F. The New Hampshire Churches. N.p.: Claremont Manufacturing, 1856. (FHL book 974.2 K2L; fiche 6046841; computer number 75064.) This source comprises histories of the Congregational and Presbyterian churches in the state, with notices of other denominations. Included are names of ministers and dates of service. It also contains many interesting incidents connected with the first settlement of towns. The records are arranged by county and then towns within a county.


Over 160 individual congregations of Congregational, Baptist, Freewill Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Universalist, and other churches have sent their church records, 1700s through the 1900s, to the New Hampshire Historical Society. For the address of the New Hampshire Historical Society, see “Societies” in this outline.

You may also contact the following repositories to locate church records:

Baptist

American Baptist Churches of Vermont and New Hampshire
1 Oak Ridge Road, B3, #4A
West Lebanon NH 03784
Telephone: 603-643-4201
Fax: 603-228-6129
Internet address: www.abcvnh.org

They have a quarterly newsletter of the Baptist churches in New Hampshire.
This society has some Baptist church records from New Hampshire.

For a history of the Baptist Church, see:


**Congregational**

United Church of Christ, New Hampshire Conference
314 S. Main St.
Concord, NH 03301
Telephone: 603-225-6647
Internet address: [www.14beacon.org](http://www.14beacon.org)

Many older Congregational church records of congregations no longer active are at the New Hampshire Historical Society. (For the address, see the “Societies” section of this outline.)

**Episcopal**

The Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire
63 Green St.
Concord, NH 03301
Telephone: 603-224-1914
Internet address: [www.nhepiscopal.org](http://www.nhepiscopal.org)

The diocesan archives at the above address has records of churches that have closed. It also contains bishops’ official acts, such as confirmation records. The New Hampshire Historical Society has the church records of several New Hampshire Episcopalian congregations, which are held in the archives.

**Methodist**

United Methodist Church, Conference Office
62 Government Street
Kittery, ME 03904-1563
Telephone: 207-439-9686
E-mail address: stmarks.me@compuserve.com

Some of the records of the older Methodist congregations have been deposited at:

School of Theology Library
745 Commonwealth Ave.
Boston, MA 02215
Telephone: 617-353-3034
Fax: 617-353-3061
Internet address: [digilib.bu.edu/sth/sthlibrary](http://digilib.bu.edu/sth/sthlibrary)

**Presbyterian**

Presbyterian Historical Society
425 Lombard St.
Philadelphia, PA 19147
Telephone: 215-627-1852
Internet address: [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org)

The New Hampshire Historical Society has Presbyterian records for Antrim, Bedford, Chester, Derry, Hampton, Londonderry, Pembroke, and Seabrook.

**Roman Catholic**

Chancery Office
Diocese of Manchester
153 Ash Street
P.O. Box 310
Manchester, NH 03105
Telephone: 603-669-3100
Fax: 603-669-0377
Internet address: [www.catholicnh.org/index.cfm](http://www.catholicnh.org/index.cfm)

Many Catholic marriage and baptismal records have been published, particularly for larger parishes. The New Hampshire Historical Society and the American-Canadian Genealogical Society have the best collections. See the “Societies” section of this outline for their addresses.

For help in locating records of the Roman Catholic church that existed in 1938, see:


**Society of Friends (Quakers)**

Rhode Island Historical Society Library
121 Hope St.
Providence, RI 02906
Telephone: 401-273-8107
Internet address: [www.rihs.org](http://www.rihs.org)

For more information, see the “Church Records” section of the *United States Research Outline*.
Many of your ancestors may be found in court records. They may be listed as defendants, plaintiffs, witnesses, or jurors. They may have participated in cases involving probate, adoption, guardianship, divorce, debt, licenses, civil and criminal law suits, crimes, property disputes, appointment to public offices, or other matters brought before a court. Court records can establish family relationships and places of residence. They often provide occupations, descriptions of individuals, and other family history information.

New Hampshire courts have kept records of genealogical value that include the following:

| 1682–present | Justices of the peace | have jurisdiction over minor civil and criminal matters in each town. |
| 1769–1824    | Courts of general quarter sessions | handled civil and criminal matters (1769–1794 and 1820–1824). |
| 1769–1859    | Justices of the courts of common pleas | had jurisdiction over civil matters (1769–1820 and 1824–1859). |
| 1769–present | Superior courts | are countywide courts with jurisdiction over divorce and alimony, marriages, equity matters, and some appeals (1769–1813, 1816–1855, and 1901–present). |
| 1874–1876    | Circuit Courts | held appellate jurisdiction during this period. |
| 1813–present | The Supreme Court | is the statewide appellate court (1813–1816, 1855–1874, 1876–present). |

Colonial Court Records

New Hampshire. Courts. *Colonial Court Records, 1638–1772 Approx.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1975. (On 207 FHL films beginning with 1001334; computer number 81582.) These include civil court cases and miscellaneous material in over 30,000 files and indexes found at the Division of Records and Management Archives in Concord, New Hampshire. There is a surname index, and the court records are filed by file number.

New Hampshire Provincial and State Papers, 40 vols. Concord, N.H.: State Printer, 1867–1943. (FHL book 974.2 N2nhp; On 21 films beginning with 1033734; some volumes on fiche 6046775 and 6046728; computer number 94111.) The volumes that deal with court records are volumes 1–7, films 1033734–37; volume 10, film 1033737, item 2; volume 19, film 1033738; volumes 20–22, films 1033739–40. Each volume is indexed. For more information on the New Hampshire Provincial and State Papers, see:


Towle, Laird C. *New Hampshire Genealogical Research Guide*. Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 1983. (FHL book 974.2 D27t; computer number 187892.) This has a detailed list of what each volume of the state papers contains. See the “Court Records” section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for more detailed information on court records. Refer to the “Probate Records” and “Naturalization and Citizenship” sections of this outline for information about those specific court records.

Court records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

NEW HAMPSHIRE - COURT RECORDS
NEW HAMPSHIRE, [COUNTY] - COURT RECORDS
NEW HAMPSHIRE, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - COURT RECORDS

**DIRECTORIES**

Directories are alphabetical lists of names and addresses. City directories can help you learn where an ancestor lived. The person’s occupation is frequently given. Often the home address and business address are both mentioned. When a husband dies, many times the widow is listed as “widow of . . . .” Directories can help you determine which jurisdictional ward the family lived in if you are searching census records for a
particular time period in a big city. Directories sometimes have maps and addresses of churches, cemeteries, courthouses, and other important locations.

The New Hampshire Historical Society has an excellent collection of city directories. The Family History Library has the following, some on microfilm, some on microfiche:

- Concord 1830–1935 (gaps)
- Dover 1830–1935 (gaps)
- Great Falls 1848 (now Somersworth)
- Keene 1827, 1830, 1831, 1871–1935 (gaps)
- Manchester 1844–1935 (gaps)
- Nashua 1841–1935 (gaps)
- New Hampshire 1849
- New Ipswich 1858
- Peterborough 1830
- Portsmouth 1817–1935 (gaps)

To locate the source numbers for the directories at the Family History Library, use the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog for:

- NEW HAMPSHIRE, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - DIRECTORIES

Other directories may be located at the New Hampshire Historical Society. For their address, see the “Societies” section of this outline.

**DIVORCE RECORDS**

Divorce proceedings are usually kept by the clerk of the Superior Court of each county. Divorce records prior to 1938 are at the Bureau of Vital Records. For the address, see “Vital Records” in this outline. The Bureau of Vital Records and the Family History Library have an index to divorces and annulments prior to 1938:

New Hampshire. Registrar of Vital Statistics. *Index to Divorces and Annulments Prior to 1938*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah (FHL films 1001323–30; computer number 80937.) This does not circulate to Family History Centers. These are arranged alphabetically by surname using the first and third letters of the name.

Divorce records can be found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

- NEW HAMPSHIRE - DIVORCE RECORDS
- NEW HAMPSHIRE, [COUNTY] - DIVORCE RECORDS

**EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION**

Nearly 50 million people have immigrated to America. You can gain information from these records, such as your ancestor’s arrival date, port of departure and arrival, other family or community members, and country of origin.

The *United States Research Outline* (30972) “Emigration and Immigration” section lists several important sources for finding information about immigrants. These nationwide sources include many references to people who settled in New Hampshire.

The *Tracing Immigrant Origins Research Outline* (34111) introduces the principles, search strategies, and additional record types you can use to identify an immigrant ancestor’s original hometown.

**People**

Colonial settlers of New Hampshire were mostly of British origin. The earliest settlers came from Massachusetts and Connecticut or directly from England. Beginning in 1719 they were joined by large numbers of Scotch-Irish. By the end of the 18th century, most of the original Indian tribes had moved northward to Canada.

After the Civil War, large numbers of French-Canadians moved southward from Quebec province to work in the textile mills. Today about one-fourth of New Hampshire residents are of French-Canadian descent. European immigrants also came to New Hampshire in the late 1800s, including large numbers of Irish and Italians and smaller groups from Scandinavia and Poland.

**Records**

The major port of entry to New England is Boston. The Family History Library and the National Archives have passenger lists for the years 1820 to March 1874, and 1883 to 1935. Incomplete passenger lists for Portsmouth, New Hampshire, from 1820 to 1861 are available in *Copies of Lists of Passengers Arriving at Miscellaneous Ports on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts and at Ports on the Great Lakes, 1820–1873*, published by the United States Bureau of Customs. See the “Emigration and Immigration” section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for references to the passenger lists of Boston and other ports.

The *Massachusetts State Archives* also has Boston passenger lists for 1848 to 1891, including records
for the nine years (1 Apr. 1874–31 Dec. 1882) that are missing from the National Archives and Family History Library films. See the address for the Massachusetts State Archives in “Archives and Libraries” in this outline.

Colonial Immigration. Names of colonial immigrants listed in published sources are indexed in P. William Filby’s Passenger and Immigration Lists Index. See the “Emigration and Immigration” section of the United States Research Outline (30972) for this source and more detailed information on U.S. immigration sources.

A comprehensive list of about 140,000 immigrants to America from Britain is:

Coldham, Peter Wilson. The Complete Book of Emigrants, 1607–1776 and Emigrants in Bondage, 1614–1775. Family Tree Maker’s Family Archives, no. 350. [Novato, Calif.]: Broderbund Software, 1996. (FHL compact disc no. 9 pt. 350; computer number 784052.) This does not circulate to Family History Centers. It includes New Hampshire immigrants and may show the British hometown, emigration date, ship, destination, and text of the document abstract. These are also indexed in the FamilyFinder Index and Viewer described in the “Census” section of this outline.

Canadian Border Crossing Records. Many people came to New Hampshire via Canada. Lists are available for those who crossed the Canadian border between 1895 and 1954. Lists of passengers crossing the Canadian border to the United States, including New Hampshire, were collected at St. Albans, Vermont, and are called Manifest of Passengers Arriving in the St. Albans, Vermont District. This collection includes records from all over Canada and the northern United States. These are the records compiled by U.S. immigration officials who inspected travelers at all Canadian seaports, major cities, and emigration stations and at U.S. train arrival stations in all border states from Maine to Washington. These lists may include the name of the passenger, date and port or station of entry, literacy, last residence, previous visits to the United States, place of birth, and names of relatives in the United States and Canada. For a full description of the two sets of records and four indexes, see the “Emigration and Immigration” section of the United States Research Outline (30972).

Other sources on emigration and immigration can be found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

UNITED STATES - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

GAZETTEERS

A gazetteer is a list and description of places such as villages, towns, and cities. It may also mention neighborhoods, cemeteries, sizes of populations, rivers, mountains, and other geographical features. It can be used to locate the places where your family lived. Only the names of places that existed at the time the gazetteer was published are included. The following gazetteers are available for New Hampshire:


Farmer, John, and Jacob B. Moore. A Gazetteer of the State of New Hampshire. Concord, N.H.: Jacob B. Moore, 1823. (FHL book 974.2 E5f; film 823666 item 2; computer number 124197.) This source includes an accurate map of the state in 1823 and some engravings.

Fogg, Alonzo J. The Statistics and Gazetteer of New Hampshire. 1874. Reprint, Tucson, Ariz.: W.C. Cox, 1972. (FHL film 1000197 item 2; computer number 7822; compact disc no. 99; computer number 82738.) This gazetteer contains descriptions of all the counties, towns and villages; boundaries and area of the state; and its natural resources.

Hayward, John. A Gazetteer of New Hampshire. Boston, Mass.: John P. Jewett, 1849. (FHL book 974.2 E5h; film 823666; fiche 6019968; computer number 124198.) This gazetteer contains descriptions of all the counties, towns, and districts in the state plus principal mountains, rivers, harbors, and islands. It includes statistical accounts of its agriculture, commerce, and manufacturers.

Other gazetteers can be found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

NEW HAMPSHIRE - GAZETTEERS

GENEALOGY

The term genealogy is used to describe a variety of records containing family information previously gathered by other researchers, societies, or
archives. These records can include pedigree charts, compiled data on families, correspondence, ancestor lists, record abstracts, and collections of original or copied documents. Most archives, historical societies, and genealogical societies have special collections and indexes of genealogical value. These collections and indexes generally must be researched in person. These sources can save time, but because they are compiled from other sources, they must be carefully evaluated for accuracy.

**Nationwide Indexes**

You will find information about some of your ancestors in the following important nationwide genealogical indexes. These indexes are described in the United States Research Outline (30972) in the sections indicated.

- **Ancestral File** ("Genealogy" section. Also available on the FamilySearch Internet Genealogy Service.)
- **FamilyFinder Index** ("Census" section. Also on the Internet at www.familytreemaker.com/allsearch.html.)
- **Family History Library Catalog Surname Search** ("Introduction" and "Genealogy" sections. Also available on the FamilySearch Internet Genealogy Service.)
- **International Genealogical Index** ("Genealogy" section. Also partially available on the FamilySearch Internet Genealogy Service.)
- **Index to National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC)** ("Genealogy" section. Also on the Internet at http://lcweb.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/nucmc.html.)
- **Old Surname Index File** ("Genealogy" section.)
- **Pedigree Resource File** consists of unedited, lineage-linked pedigrees submitted over the Internet to the Family History Department since 1999. It also includes the associated family groups, descendancy charts, and sometimes notes or sources. It is available for purchase at the Family History Library for use on personal computers.
- **Periodical Source Index (PERSI)** ("Periodicals" section. Also available on the Internet at www.ancestry.com/ancestry/search/3165.htm for a subscription fee.)
- **Social Security Death Index** ("Vital Records" section.) This index is also available on the Internet at http://ssdi.genealogy.rootsweb.com/ or on compact disc from several companies. The Internet version sometimes includes a few more recently reported deaths than compact disc versions. For details about the FamilySearch compact disc version, see the U.S. Social Security Death Index Resource Guide (34446).
- **U.S. Military Death Index** lists deaths of service men and women in the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. It is available at most Family History Centers as part of FamilySearch. For details, see the Military Index Resource Guide (34540).

These indexes are available at the Family History Library and many libraries with family history collections. For another nationwide index important to New Hampshire, see:

**American Genealogical-Biographical Index.**

Vols. 1–198+. Middletown, Conn.: Godfrey Memorial Library, 1952–. (FHL book 973 D22am ser. 2; on 31 films beginning with 1698167; computer number 49554.) This is a continuing series. An earlier edition of 48 volumes was published as The American Genealogical Index, 1942–1951. The expanded edition consists of 198+ volumes indexing over 12 million brief citations (name, date, and source) to over 1,150 manuscripts, periodicals, or books. This index is also available through:

- "American Genealogical Biographical Index (AGBI).” In Ancestry.com. [Orem, Utah]: Ancestry, 1999. Available at www.ancestry.com/agbi.htm. This online database is available only to Ancestry.com members for a subscription fee. It is also available on CD-ROM.

To help interpret citations and locate the original sources, use the colored pages in some volumes, or:

**Key Title Index to the American Genealogical Biographical Index: Register of Family History Library Call Numbers.** Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1990. (FHL book 973 D22am index; film 1698167, item 4; fiche 6088377; computer number 491052.) This shows which sources are at the Family History Library and their call numbers.
Web Sites about Your Family

Search the Internet for family history web sites about your surname. Use the “Search for Ancestors” feature of the FamilySearch Internet Genealogy Service at www.familysearch.com to help you find such sites.

Statewide and Regional Collections

Manuscript Collections. Many genealogies have been researched and published for the colonial states. Names of the earliest immigrants and settlers have been identified.

New Hampshire Society of Genealogists. The New Hampshire Family Register, 1623–1910. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1987. (On 10 FHL films beginning with 1532156; computer number 535914.) This register includes family group sheets, names of grooms and brides, and all other persons listed on the family group sheets. These are arranged by surname.


The New Hampshire Notables Card File, cited in the “Biography” section of this outline, has over 30,000 cards that contain the names of New Hampshire residents with the date and place of birth and a source title.

Other important manuscript collections are at the New England Historic Genealogical Society and the New Hampshire Historical Society. For the addresses of these societies, see the “Societies” section of this outline.

Published Collections. Indexes and major published genealogical collections for New Hampshire are:


Ireland, Norma Olin and Winifred Irving. Cutter Index: A Consolidated Index of Cutter’s Nine Genealogy Series. Fallbrook, Calif.: Ireland Indexing Service, 197–? (FHL book 974 D22i; film 1036507, item 6; fiche 6046737; computer number 122007.) It includes an index to genealogical and personal memoirs relating to the families in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and central and western New York and an index to historic homes and memoirs of families of Middlesex County, Massachusetts.


Genealogical and Family History of the State of New Hampshire. 4 vols. New York: Lewis Publishing, 1908. (FHL book 974.2 D2s; film 1000198; fiche 6046857; computer number 63341.) This genealogical history of is a record of the achievements of the people in the making of the commonwealth. The volumes include illustrations, portraits, and an index.

arranged by family names. Any family carried through three or more generations is included.


Noyes, Sybil, Charles Thornton Libby, and Walter Goodwin Davis. Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire. 1928–1939. Reprint, Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1983. (FHL book 974 D2n; films 476892 and 599337 item 4; computer number 124422; fiche 6046621; computer number 124399.) This dictionary is an extensive list of inhabitants from the first settlements through 1700 and includes three generations of the families listed. Alphabetically arranged by surname, information on each family includes dates of birth, marriage, and death. The children and their marriages are listed, and historical information is given on some of the families.

Pope, Charles H. The Pioneers of Maine and New Hampshire, 1623 to 1660. 1908. Reprint, Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1965. (FHL book 974 D2po 1965; fiche 6049825; computer number 1746660; computer number 174671.) This source contains a descriptive list of pioneers that was taken from records of the colonies, towns, churches, courts, and other sources. It includes an index.


Other genealogical records of New Hampshire can be found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

- NEW HAMPSHIRE - GENEALOGY
- NEW HAMPSHIRE, [COUNTY] - GENEALOGY
- NEW HAMPSHIRE, [COUNTY], TOWN] - GENEALOGY

HISTORY

Effective family research requires some understanding of the historical events that may have affected your family and the records about them. Learning about wars, governments, laws, migrations, and religious trends may help you understand political boundaries, family movements, and settlement patterns. County and town histories often include biographical sketches of local residents or mention military units in which they served.

The following important events in the history of New Hampshire affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1623–1638</td>
<td>Traders and religious dissenters established the first permanent English settlements in New Hampshire at Dover, Portsmouth, Exeter, and Hampton. John Mason was the proprietor of a large part of New Hampshire. He and the later Masonian proprietors made many town grants and individual land grants until the early 1800s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1641–1679</td>
<td>New Hampshire settlements were under the jurisdiction of Massachusetts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1679</td>
<td>New Hampshire became a separate royal province with the same governor as Massachusetts for most of the period before 1741. The Massachusetts governor made many land grants in what is now New Hampshire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1739–1741</td>
<td>Boundary disputes with Massachusetts were settled.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1754–1763</td>
<td>The French and Indian War brought many soldiers into New Hampshire, opening the way for new settlements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1764</td>
<td>The western boundary was declared to be the west bank of the Connecticut River. Earlier, most of Vermont had been claimed by New Hampshire. Before this time, New Hampshire’s governor made many land grants in the area that later became Vermont.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1775–1783</td>
<td>Many soldiers from New Hampshire fought in the Revolutionary War.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1788</td>
<td>New Hampshire ratified the U.S. Constitution to become the ninth state.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1819</td>
<td>The Toleration Act was passed. New Hampshire residents no longer could be forced to pay taxes to support a church.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1842</td>
<td>The boundary between New Hampshire and Quebec was settled. At about this time, farm workers and overseas immigrants began moving to New Hampshire cities to work in the textile and shoe factories.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1861–1865</td>
<td>About 39,000 New Hampshire men served in the Union Army.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1898</td>
<td>1,358 New Hampshire soldier served in the Spanish-American War.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late 1800s</td>
<td>French Canadians and Europeans settled mostly in cities to work in factories. Manufacturing surpassed farming as the chief occupation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>More than 20,000 soldiers served in WWI. The Navy’s first submarine was completed at the Portsmouth Navy Yard, beginning decades of submarine construction and repair.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930s</td>
<td>Many employees lost their jobs as the Depression closed factories and mills. The snow skiing industry continued to grow as the tourist industry expanded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941–1945</td>
<td>Over 60,000 men and women served in WWII; 1,600 died. Factories converted to defense production and agriculture boomed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1947–1954</td>
<td>The postwar slump hit factories and farms. Textile and shoe manufacturers continued to move to the South.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960s</td>
<td>Technology and electronics firms boomed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### State Histories

A few sources for historical events are:

Stackpole, Everett S. *History of New Hampshire*. 4 vols. New York: American Historical Society, 1916. (FHL book 974.2 H2ses; fiche 6046856; computer number 144872.) This is an extensive and complete history of New Hampshire. The four volumes include illustrations, maps, genealogies, portraits, and indexes.

Barstow, George. *The History of New Hampshire, From its Discovery in 1614*. Concord, N.H.: I.S. Boyd, 1842. (FHL book 974.2 H2b; computer number 146613.) This large volume tells the history of New Hampshire from 1614 to 1819. It contains detailed descriptions of towns, military skirmishes, and events, complete with information on names and dates. It is arranged chronologically with exact dates of events in the margins. There is no index to names.

Belknap, Jeremy. *The History of New Hampshire*. 2 vols. 1812, 1831. Reprint, New York: Johnson Reprint Corporation, 1970. (FHL book 974.2 H2bj; computer number 457929.) These volumes contain a detailed history of New Hampshire and descriptions and narratives of the events which took place in the state. It is replete with copies of documents and letters. The second volume includes explanations of the records kept by the towns along with statistics shown by county.

Squires, J. Duane. *The Granite State of the United States*. 4 vols. New York: American Historical, 1956. (FHL book 974.2 H2s; computer number 145116.) These four volumes contain a complete history of New Hampshire from 1623 to 1956. Volumes one and two detail the history of the early settlements, the colonial and social life, public affairs, and business and industry information. Volumes three and four contain biographies and genealogies. All volumes have illustrations, portraits, and bibliographies and are well indexed.
Local Histories

Some of the most valuable sources for family history research are local histories. Published histories of towns, counties, and states usually contain accounts of area families. The "History" section cites nationwide bibliographies of local histories, which include local histories of New Hampshire. For a statewide bibliography of local histories see:


Information on additional resources about the history of New Hampshire and local histories of its towns and counties can be found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

NEW HAMPSHIRE - HISTORY
NEW HAMPSHIRE, [COUNTY] - HISTORY
NEW HAMPSHIRE, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - HISTORY

LAND AND PROPERTY

The availability of land attracted many immigrants and encouraged settlement in the colonies. Land ownership was recorded in New England towns from the first settlement of the town. Land records are primarily used to learn where people lived and when they lived there. The records often reveal other information, such as the name of a spouse, heir, other relatives, or neighbors. You may learn where a person lived previously, his occupation, if he had served in the military and other clues. Sale of the land may show when he left, and may mention his new destination.

Land Jurisdictional Periods

In 1629 the province of New Hampshire was granted to the proprietorship of Captain John Mason. Mason, his heirs, and those who purchased the patent assigned many town grants and many individual grants. These years are commonly known as the “Masonian Proprietary Period.”

From 1641 to 1679 New Hampshire was considered part of Massachusetts. Town charters granted by Massachusetts, to 1740, have been published in volume 24 of the *New Hampshire Provincial and State Papers*. The charters extend to 1740 because Massachusetts and New Hampshire had the same governor for most of the time until 1740.

New Hampshire became a royal province in 1679, although Massachusetts continued to claim the Merrimack Valley until 1741. Town charters were granted by Massachusetts during its jurisdictional period, and charters were granted by New Hampshire during its jurisdictional period. These recorded charters, land grants, maps, and plans can be found in several volumes of *New Hampshire Provincial and State Papers*.

*New Hampshire Provincial and State Papers*. 40 vols. (See the full citation in the “Court Records” section of this outline. FHL book 974.2 N2nhp vols. 24–29; films 1033740–42; computer number 94111). Each volume has an every-name index.

Volume 24; film 1033740. Town charters granted by Massachusetts, 1641–1740. Town charters granted by New Hampshire, 1740–1800s. Reference is often made to Masonian grants.

Volume 25; film 1033741. Town charters granted by New Hampshire, 1740–1800s. Reference is often made to Masonian grants.

Volume 26; film 1033741. New Hampshire grants, within the present boundaries of Vermont, 1749–1764.

Volumes 27, 28; films 1033741–42. Masonian proprietors’ township and individual grants in New Hampshire, 1720s–1830s. Contains maps, plans and descriptions of land grants.

Volume 29; film 1033742. Masonian proprietors’ documents, 1629–1700s.

Registration of Deeds

When proprietors sold their land to others, the deeds and all subsequent transactions were recorded in provincial, county, and some town records. From 1623 to 1772, the Registry of Deeds was at Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

County registrars of deeds began to keep deed records in 1769, when the first five New Hampshire counties were created (Cheshire, Grafton, Hillsborough, Rockingham, and Strafford). New Hampshire land records now may be found within town records.

New Hampshire Province Deeds and Probate Records from 1623–1772. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1975. (On 118 FHL films beginning with 1001345; computer number 80942.) These films are of the indexes to the volumes and are alphabetically arranged.

All existing pre-1772 deeds are now at the New Hampshire Division of Records Management and Archives. The address may be found in the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline. For records of deeds after 1772, refer to probate offices in the counties.

Additional information on land and property records can be found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

NEW HAMPSHIRE - LAND AND PROPERTY
NEW HAMPSHIRE, [COUNTY] - LAND AND PROPERTY
NEW HAMPSHIRE, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - LAND AND PROPERTY

MAPS

Maps are used to locate places where your ancestors lived. They identify jurisdictional and county boundaries, names of places, geographical features, cemeteries, churches, and migration routes. Historical maps are especially useful for finding communities that no longer exist.

A County Map of New Hampshire. N.p.: Evans Printing, 1969. (FHL map 974.2 E7n; computer number 70407.) This map shows the names of counties and townships.


Maps of the Masonian Propriety: Vols. 1–5 with Index. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1975. (FHL film 980930 items 2–7; computer number 102302.) These are microfilms of the originals in Concord, New Hampshire. Item two is the index to these maps. Items 3–7 contain the Masonian Propriety maps.

Town and City Atlas of the State of New Hampshire. Boston, Mass.: D.H. Hurd, 1892. (FHL folio 974.2 E3t; computer number 149753.) This map is compiled from government surveys, county records, and personal investigations.

County atlases and maps may contain the names of the landowners. Land ownership maps were published for each county between 1857 and 1861. To find specific maps for each county, access the Family History Library Catalog Locality Search under:

NEW HAMPSHIRE, [COUNTY] - MAPS
NEW HAMPSHIRE, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - MAPS

MILITARY RECORDS

Military records identify millions of individuals who served in the military or who were eligible for service. Evidence that an ancestor actually served may be found in family traditions, census records, naturalization records, biographies, cemetery records, and records of veterans’ organizations. In addition to his record of military service, military records can give birth, marriage, and death dates, names of spouse and children, and localities of residence.

Early military records are generally known as militia records, and many of these can be found in the individual town records. These include muster rolls and payrolls and may list the battles fought. There is a comprehensive listing of federal military records available in the National Archives and other federal archives. For information on these records, consult the United States Research Outline (30972). The U.S. Military Records Research Outline (34118) provides more information on federal military records and search strategies.
For a military history of New Hampshire, see:


**Colonial Military Records (1600s–1775)**

*New Hampshire Provincial and State Papers*, 40 vols. (See “Court Records” in this outline for the full citation. FHL book 974.2 N2nhp, vols. 5, 6, 14, 16; computer number 94111.) French and Indian War records (1754–1763) can be found in volume 5, film 1033735; volume 6, film 1033736; volume 14, film 983564; volume 16, film 983565. These volumes each have a name index.

*Indian and French Wars and Revolutionary Papers*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1975. (FHL films 983571–72; computer number 102077.) These papers comprise four volumes of records and papers. The index to the papers is in volume one, and the papers are found in volumes 1–4.

**Revolutionary War (1775–1783)**

If a person supported the Revolution, he may be mentioned in records as a rebel, patriot, or Whig. Those who opposed the Revolution were loyalists or Tories.

**Patriots.** Service and pension records and indexes for patriots are available on film at the National Archives and the Family History Library. See the *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118) for these sources. Sources including information specifically about New Hampshire soldiers are:

United States. War Department. *Revolutionary War Rolls 1775–1783*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M0246. Washington D.C.: National Archives, 1957. (On 138 FHL films beginning with 830280; computer number 70811.) These films contain the jackets (compilation of records) for each soldier. The index for all years is on film 830280. The films listing the jacket numbers of the records are arranged by state. New Hampshire records are found on films 830822–33.

*New Hampshire Provincial and State Papers*, 40 vols. (See the “Court Records” section of this outline for the full citation. FHL book 974.2 N2nhp vols. 14–17 and 30; computer number 94111.) Rolls and documents relating to soldiers in the Revolutionary War are found in volumes 14–17 and 30. Volumes 14 and 15 are on film 983564; volume 16, film 983565; volume 17, film 983566; volume 30, film 983567. Volumes 14 through 17 deal with miscellaneous records for 1775 through 1782. Volume 30 pertains specifically to New Hampshire records. They are all fully indexed. An index to volumes 14–17 is:


Draper, Mrs. Amos G. *New Hampshire Pension Records, 1776–1850*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1971. (On 25 FHL films beginning with 879672; computer number 100841.) These are films of the originals records at the DAR Library in Washington, D.C. The names are alphabetically arranged through volume 99. Volume 100 is an alphabetical listing of miscellaneous names that were missed in the original listing.


Additional resources for the Revolutionary War are found in the *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118).

**Loyalists.** Loyalists were those colonists who were loyal to Britain during the American Revolution. Their lives were no different from the patriots. They were farmers, traders, merchants, lawyers, and clergymen who were content under the British rule and saw no reason for change. The loyalists were persecuted by the patriots because of their loyalty, and they were driven from their homes. The records that were kept of their lives and their escape to Canada provide good genealogical
information on the families of the loyalists. Following the war, the loyalists filed claims for return of their land. These records are held in the National Archives in Ottawa, Canada, and in London, England. Many of these records have been filmed by the Public Records Office in London, and most are available on microfilm at the Family History Library:

**American Loyalist Claims, AO 12.** London, England: Public Records Office, 1972. (On 32 FHL films beginning with 1401498; computer number 304413.) These films are series one, volumes 1–112, and have been indexed by the name of the claimants. They contain original handwritten claims submitted to the British government by citizens in America for losses sustained during the American Revolution as they remained loyal to the Crown.

**American Loyalist Claims, 1730–1835.** London, England: Public Record Office, 1960–1962. (Series 13) (On 189 FHL films beginning with 944044; computer number 49315.) These records consist of bundles of memorials, certificates, accounts, and vouchers of loyalist claims as presented to the commission established to enquire about the claims.

Bunnell, Paul J. *The New Loyalist Index.* Bowie, Md., Heritage Books, 1989. (FHL book 973 M2bun; computer number 546603.) This index is a comprehensive list of loyalists in the Revolutionary War. Each entry provides name, regiment, and rank along with brief data on residence, birth, marriage, or death. Some have additional information.

For other loyalist records, see the “Military Records” section of the *Canada Research Outline* (34545).

You may also use the Family History Library Catalog Subject Search under:

- AMERICAN LOYALISTS
- UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS

**War of 1812 (1812–1815)**

The Family History Library has indexes to the federal service and pension files for the War of 1812. See the *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118) for details and sources.

**Civil War (1861–1865)**

Indexes to the service and pension records are available at the Family History Library. The actual service and pension records are available only at the National Archives. For records of New Hampshire soldiers see:


**Civil War Service Record, Card File Index, 1860–1865.** Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1975. (On 13 FHL films beginning with 1001781; computer number 135599.) This file includes names of substitute soldiers in addition to the regular roster.


**Unit Histories.** An important inventory for finding Civil War military histories is:

*A Guide to the Microfiche Edition of Civil War Unit Histories: Regimental Histories and Personal Narratives.* Part 2, *The Union-New England.* Bethesda, Md.: University Publications of America, 1992. (FHL book 973 M2cwu pt. 2; computer number 660208.) New Hampshire units are listed on pages 53–59. The library has the large microfiche collection described in this guide. Use the library catalog to find individual items. This may include correspondence, diaries, memoirs, and regimental histories published before 1920. The guide shows the unit name, counties where it was raised, author, title, publication information, number of pages, and source repository. This guide includes an author index and a major engagements index.
Internet sites with information about New Hampshire in the Civil War include:


State Soldier Homes. New Hampshire maintained a home for veterans in Tilton, New Hampshire. They have records of the veterans who lived there, some of which have been sent to the Adjutant General and the Division of Records Management and Archives. Contact the veteran’s home first.

New Hampshire Veteran’s Home
139 Winter Street
Tilton, NH 03276
Telephone: 603-527-4400

World War I (1917–1918)

World War I draft registration cards for men age 18 to 45 may list address, birth date, birthplace, race, nationality, citizenship, and next of kin. Not all registrants served in the war. For New Hampshire’s cards see:


When searching for a person’s registration card, it helps to know his name and residence at the time of registration. The cards are arranged alphabetically by county, within the county by draft board, and then alphabetically by surname within each draft board. Most counties had only one board, large cities had more. Finding an ancestor’s street address in a city directory will help you determine the board number if he lived in a large city.

Haller’s Army. During World War I, the Polish Army in France, commonly called Haller’s Army, recruited about 20,000 soldiers from among Poles living in the United States. Two forms that contain genealogical information were filled out by the recruits. Form A contains each volunteer’s name, address, marital status, number of children, American citizenship status, age, physical description, signature, and recruiting station and the date. Form C contains additional information such as the volunteer’s birth date and place, the address of his closest relative in America and closest relative in Poland, his previous military service, and remarks. All volumes of the collection are available through:

PGS of America
ATTN: Haller’s Army Request
984 N. Milwaukee Ave
Chicago, IL 60622

A name index is on the Internet at:

“Haller’s Army Index.” In Polish Genealogical Society of America. [Chicago: PGS], 1998 [cited 17 July 1999]. Available at www.pgsa.org/haller.htm. You can search by surname and first name. The index shows the volunteer’s surname and given name, town and state where he volunteered, his form (form A or C described above, or L, that is, loose papers), and page number.

A microfilm copy of Form A records only is:

United States (with Some from Ontario, Canada) Recruits for the Polish Army in France, 1917–1919: States Represented most Frequently are New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Connecticut, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Delaware, Nebraska & Kansas (for Complete Breakdown See Film Inventory). Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1995. (On 11 FHL films beginning with 1993525; computer number 771935.) The forms are in Polish, but at the beginning of each film is a blank form printed in English. The records are not organized by locality and New Hampshire recruits are listed on almost every film. There is, however, an alphabetical list of volunteers for each item.

More military records and sources can be found in the Family History Library Catalog by using a Locality Search under:

NEW HAMPSHIRE - MILITARY HISTORY
NEW HAMPSHIRE - MILITARY RECORDS
NEW HAMPSHIRE, [COUNTY] - MILITARY RECORDS
NEW HAMPSHIRE, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - MILITARY RECORDS

23
NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Naturalization is the process of granting citizenship privileges and responsibilities to foreign-born residents. Naturalization papers are an important source of information about an immigrant’s place of origin, foreign and Americanized names, residence, and date of arrival.

Immigrants to the United States have never been required to apply for citizenship. Of those who applied, many did not complete the requirements for citizenship. Evidence that an immigrant completed citizenship requirements can be found in censuses, court minutes, homestead records, passports, voting registers, and military papers. Even if an immigrant ancestor did not become a citizen, he or she may have filed an application. These application records still exist and contain some genealogical information. See the United States Research Outline (30972) for a more complete discussion of the naturalization process and the records created. An index to New England naturalization records is:

United States. Immigration and Naturalization Service. Index to New England Naturalization Petitions, 1791–1906. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M1299. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1983. (FHL films 1429671–787; computer number 305194.) Those pertaining to New Hampshire begin with film 1429717. These index cards are organized by state and then by petitioner, arranged according to the Soundex system. The index gives the name and location of the court that granted the naturalization, date of naturalization, and volume and page number of the naturalization record.

Some early New Hampshire naturalization records as well as civil court cases can be found in the Colonial Court Records, 1638–1772 Approx. mentioned in the “Court Records” section of this outline. This includes an alphabetical card index.

For naturalization records after September 1906, contact the local Immigration and Naturalization office or the National Archives-Northeast Region (Boston). For the address, see the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline.

Other New Hampshire naturalization records can be found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

NEW HAMPSHIRE - NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP
NEW HAMPSHIRE, [COUNTY] - NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

NEWSPAPERS

Newspapers publish notices of marriage, divorce, death, funerals, obituaries, and wartime casualty lists. Notices include names of the persons involved and date of the event and may contain maiden names, names of parents, and other relatives.

Newspapers also publish articles of local interest, including religious and social events in the community with the names of those involved. Some newspapers serve several communities and devote columns to the everyday happenings in the area. Newspapers also include legal notices, estate sales, and advertising for local businesses.

New Hampshire’s newspapers began in 1756 with the Portsmouth New Hampshire Gazette. The New Hampshire Historical Society and the New Hampshire State Library are major repositories of New Hampshire newspapers. For addresses of these repositories, see “Archives and Libraries” and “Societies” sections of this outline.

Inventory on the Internet

Over 1,800 New Hampshire newspapers are cataloged in:


Briefly lists newspaper title, town, publisher, life span, and catalog and reel numbers so researchers can contact them for further details and obtain microfilm copies through interlibrary loan.

The Family History Library does not have copies of New Hampshire newspapers, but it does have some published abstracts from newspapers, such as:

Published Indexes


More resources regarding local newspapers for New Hampshire can be found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

NEW HAMPSHIRE - NEWSPAPERS
NEW HAMPSHIRE, [COUNTY] - NEWSPAPERS
NEW HAMPSHIRE, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - NEWSPAPERS

PERIODICALS

Most family organizations, historical societies, and genealogical societies publish magazines and newsletters. They typically focus on the records of a particular county. Periodicals often include family genealogies and pedigrees, transcripts of local courthouse records, church records, and family Bible and cemetery records. They may also include information about local records, book reviews, and queries or requests for information about specific ancestors that can help you contact other interested researchers.

Periodicals or magazines of special interest to those conducting New Hampshire research are:

**New Hampshire Genealogical Record.** 1903–April 1910; 1990–. Published by the New Hampshire Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 2316, Concord, NH 03302 (FHL book 974.2 D25nh; 1903–1910 on films 14928–29; computer number 597346; compact disc no. 99; computer number 827338.) In 1990 the New Hampshire Genealogical Society was re-established as the New Hampshire Society of Genealogists, and the publication was started again with the July 1990 issue. This quarterly contains articles on New Hampshire genealogy, history, and research. Each volume is indexed and there is a combined index.

**The Granite Monthly.** 1877–1930. 51 vols. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1982. (FHL fiche 6010178–22; [set of 242]; computer number 123438.) This is a New Hampshire magazine devoted to literature, history, and state progress. It is also a good source of biographies. Some volumes are indexed, and there is an index to volumes 1–34 in volume 37.

**Historical New Hampshire.** 1944–. Published by the New Hampshire Historical Society, 30 Park Street, Concord, NH 03301. (FHL book 974.2 H25h; computer number 144548.) The Family History Library has volumes 27, no. 2 (Summer 1972) to the present. An index to volumes 1–25 (1944–1970) was also published by the society (FHL book 974.2 H25h index; computer number 144548.) These volumes contain brief histories of New Hampshire towns plus biographies and character sketches of those living in New Hampshire.

**American-Canadian Genealogist: Official Journal of the American-Canadian Genealogical Society of New Hampshire.** 1975–. Published by the American-Canadian Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 6478, Manchester, NH 03108. (FHL book 970 D25g; computer number 30774.) This source contains genealogical information and stories about the inhabitants of both New Hampshire and Canada and how their lives intertwined. It includes other states but is mainly concerned with those on the American-Canadian border.

**The New England Historical and Genealogical Register.** 1847–. Published by the New England Historic Genealogical Society, 101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116. (FHL book 974 B2ne; on 43 films beginning with 845443; computer number 231574; compact disc no. 31 pts. 1–9; computer number 748811.) This major periodical includes genealogies, vital records extracts, church records, local genealogies, and New England source material. All issues are well documented and indexed. Includes a cumulative index to 1995.

Indexes. Most of the periodicals listed above have annual indexes in the final issue for the year. For nationwide indexes to most of these and other family history periodicals see:

(34119). For easier-to-use, more complete computer editions of the index see:

*Periodical Source Index CD-ROM.* Orem, Utah: Ancestry, and the Allen County Public Library Foundation, 1997. (FHL compact disc no. 61; computer number 808087.) This disc does not circulate to Family History Centers. It merges all 31+ volumes into one index.


For more family history periodicals, study the Family History Library Catalog Locality Search under:

NEW HAMPSHIRE - PERIODICALS
NEW HAMPSHIRE - GENEALOGY - PERIODICALS
NEW HAMPSHIRE - HISTORY - PERIODICALS
NEW HAMPSHIRE, [COUNTY] - GENEALOGY - PERIODICALS

**PROBATE RECORDS**

Probate records are court records created after an person’s death that document the court’s decisions regarding the distribution of the estate. These records include wills, administrations, letters testamentary, inventories, guardianships, and other documents. You may find the person’s exact death date; the names of family members, including the names of spouses of the children; and residences. You may also learn about the adoption or guardianship of minor children and dependents. Through the inventories, you will find the worth of their property and the land holdings they had. Probate records are the best single source for family names and family relationships.

Probate records from 1636–1771, originally filed in Portsmouth and Exeter, are now in the collection at the New Hampshire Records Management and Archives. See the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline for the address. Probate records are now found in the county courthouse of each county. These probate files include letters, affidavits, bills, receipts, original wills, and inventories. Records of towns along the Massachusetts border may be found in either Massachusetts or New Hampshire. Some early probate records have been printed and can be found in:

*Probate Records of the Province of New Hampshire.* 1907–1941. Reprint, Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 1989–1990. (FHL book 972.2 P2p; computer 576700.) These volumes are reprints of volumes 31–39 of the *New Hampshire Provincial and State Papers.* (See “Court Records” in this outline for the full citation.) They include abstracts of the wills and probate records between 1635–1771. The indexes include the names of those mentioned in the records, including the names of heirs, witnesses, and owners of nearby land.

*Colonial Court Records, 1638–1772.* Approx., cited in “Court Records” in this outline, contains references to many probate cases. *Province Deeds and Probate Records from 1623–1772,* mentioned in the “Land Records” section of this outline, also contains abstracts of probate records.

Many of the probate records are on microfilm at the Family History Library. They can be found by using the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

NEW HAMPSHIRE - PROBATE RECORDS
NEW HAMPSHIRE [COUNTY] - PROBATE RECORDS
NEW HAMPSHIRE [COUNTY] - GUARDIANSHIP

**SOCIETIES**

Genealogical, historical, lineage, veterans, fraternal, family name, and ethnic societies often transcribe and publish records useful to family historians. Local genealogical societies often help family history researchers contact local record searchers or copy records that mention ancestors. A current list of societies, archives, and libraries can be found on several Internet sites listed in “Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards” in this outline. Some of these organizations have their own Internet sites.

For New Hampshire genealogical and historical societies that have records and services to help you with your research, see the “Archives and Libraries,” “Church Records,” and “Periodicals” sections of this outline. Many counties also have local historical and genealogical societies. You can find local society addresses by using directories cited in the “Societies” section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972).
These proceedings include a listing of officers, correspondence, and notes beginning with the first meeting in 1889. Included is a list of the last 14 survivors of the Revolutionary War with notes on their military service. Portraits and an index are included.

Society of Colonial Wars (New Hampshire). List of Officers, Committees and Members Chronicle for Thirty Years, 1894–1924. Concord, N.H.: Society, 1924. (FHL book 974.2 C4s; film 908591; computer number 143391.) This source includes a list of officers, committees, and members between 1894–1924 and the members who died between 1910–1924. Included are sketches of their lives, lines of descent, and an index of ancestors and descendants.

Piscataqua Pioneers

The Piscataqua Pioneers organization gathered information on the history and genealogy of about 1,000 early settlers of New Hampshire and Maine. Their published books have extensive genealogical information about the earliest settlers of New Hampshire and their spouses and children.

Piscataqua Pioneers: Register of Members and Ancestors, 1623–1775. Dover, N.H.: C.F. Whitehouse, 1919. (FHL film 928026 item 5; computer number 142611.) This register contains a list of early officers, genealogical information on the members and their ancestors, and where they settled. It includes portraits and is indexed.

Piscataqua Pioneers. Applications for Membership, 1978–1982. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1982. (FHL film 1035963; computer number 153745.) The applications show the genealogical information necessary to prove lineage from a pioneer ancestor. Included are references and personal history sketches. The records are arranged alphabetically.

Piscataqua Pioneers. Applications for Membership, 1908–1990. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978. (FHL films 1036925–27 and 1597856 item 6; computer number 261847.) The first three films are copies of applications through 1978. Film 1597856 item 6 includes applications 1980–1990. The applications are alphabetical lists of over 1,000 descendants of the first settlers of Maine and New Hampshire. The applications have full genealogies of the families.

Additional sources about New Hampshire societies can be found in the Family History Library Catalog by using a Locality Search under:
Tax records vary in content. They may include the name and residence of the taxpayer, description of real estate or personal property, number of males over 21, and number of school children and farm animals. They are usually arranged by date and locality, and they are not normally indexed. Tax records can be used in place of missing land and census records to locate a person’s residence.

New Hampshire. Tax Books, 1727–1788. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1975. (FHL film 983686; computer number 102087.) These books contain inventories of taxes assessed and received from the towns. They include inventories of the polls (usually men over 21) and estates in the province of New Hampshire, 1727–1773.

Holbrook, Jay Mack. New Hampshire Residents, 1633–1699. Oxford, Mass.: Holbrook Research Institute, 1979. (FHL book 974.2 X4h; computer number 34234.) This source lists over 6,000 residents of early New Hampshire. The information was taken from tax lists and land records and shows each head of household, the year of the record and place of residence, the value of the property, and published tax lists.


New Hampshire. Secretary of State. Non-Resident Tax Lists, 1849–1874. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1975. (On 9 FHL films beginning with 983573; computer number 136588.) These films list the New Hampshire taxes paid by non-residents and are arranged chronologically by year.


For other tax records, see the Family History Library Catalog Locality Search under:

NEW HAMPSHIRE - TAXATION
NEW HAMPSHIRE, [COUNTY] - TAXATION
NEW HAMPSHIRE, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - TAXATION

TOWN RECORDS

In New England the town clerk is the principal record keeper at the local level. The earliest records are called proprietors’ records. Town records generally begin with the founding of a town and are still maintained to the present.

Town records may contain records of births, marriages, burials, appointments, earmarks, estrays (records of stray animals), freemens’ oaths (men becoming eligible to vote), name changes, surveys, mortgages, care of the poor, voter registrations, and “warnings out” (of town); cemetery, land, and school records; tax lists; and town meeting minutes. Birth, marriage, and death information found in town records is described further in the “Vital Records” section of this outline.

As in most New England towns, the original records are kept in the town clerk’s office of each town. Many are available on microfilm and can be found at the New Hampshire Historical Society and the Family History Library.

A few of these microfilm sources are:

New Hampshire. Secretary of State. Index to Early Town Records of New Hampshire. Early to 1850. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1950. (FHL films 14942–15052; computer number 80940.) They are arranged alphabetically by surname with name variations indented under the main names (bracketed names are incorrect variations). These are microfilm copies of the original records in the Office of the Secretary of State, Concord, New Hampshire.


For a book that gives a detailed description of 18 kinds of town records, shows some examples, and tells how they help family history researchers, see:


**Warnings Out**

A unique section of the town records of northern New England are the records of “warnings out.” Warnings out permitted the local authorities to issue warrants requiring newcomers to leave town. The town was responsible for all the inhabitants, and if a person or family moved into town who could not qualify as a desirable member of the town, or show personal means of support, they could be warned out by a warrant from the town constable. The original records were kept by the town clerk of each town, but information and lists have been published. For more information see:

New Hampshire. *Warnings Out of Town, Early to 1800 Approximately*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1975. (FHL films 1001438 and 983568–70; computer number 81374.) An index is on film 1001438. These records may list the names of all family members and the town where they previously lived.


**Town Historians**

New England town historians are an important source for town records. Each New Hampshire town has a town historian who usually has many books and manuscripts that have never been published. These records contain information not found elsewhere. The town historians are those who probably know more about the townspeople and their records than anyone else. Since the historian changes from time to time, the current one can be found by contacting the town librarian and asking for the name of the town historian.

To locate specific information and records for each town, see the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

NEW HAMPSHIRE - TOWN RECORDS
NEW HAMPSHIRE, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - TOWN RECORDS

**VITAL RECORDS**

Records of births, marriages, and deaths are generally known as “vital records” because they refer to critical events in a person’s life. They are the most important primary source for genealogical research.

Birth records usually show the name and sex of the child and the parents’ names. They may also show the parents’ birthplaces and ages, mother’s maiden name, father’s occupation, and number of children born to the mother. A year by year search may reveal other children born to the couple.

Marriage records usually mention the names of the bride and groom, the date and place of the marriage, and the home town of both the bride and groom. They may also show the names of the parents of each of them.

Death records usually have the deceased’s name, age, birth date, and birthplace. They also may include the names of parents, the date and place of death, and the cause of death. The informant may be a close relative, and the names of the physician and mortician may be provided.

**Records of Births and Deaths**

Official records of births, marriages, and deaths occurring in each New Hampshire town or city are kept by the clerk, who sends copies to the Bureau
of Vital Records and Health Statistics in Concord, New Hampshire. The original records of every town, early to 1900, have been microfilmed and are available at the Family History Library.

New Hampshire. Registrar of Vital Statistics. *Index to Births, Early to 1900*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1974. (On 98 FHL films beginning with 1000480; computer number 74011.) These index cards are filed alphabetically by surname using the first and third letter of the name. The information on the cards includes the place of birth, the names of the parents, and occasionally additional information.

New Hampshire. Registrar of Vital Statistics. *Index to Deaths, Early to 1900*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1974. (FHL films 1001058–117; computer number 74009.) These records are arranged alphabetically by surname using the first and third letter being as in other New Hampshire vital records.


Until 1883 less than half the population was listed in the vital records. These records often gave little information about parents and their birthplaces. After 1901 the records are more complete and give much more genealogical information.

**Marriage Records**

Town clerks recorded marriages as early as 1639. Many of these records are on microfilm (see the “Town Records” section of this outline). Records after 1901 give more information. The following marriage records and indexes are available:

New Hampshire. Registrar of Vital Statistics. *Index to Marriages, Early to 1900*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1975–1976. (On 101 FHL films beginning with 1001120; computer number 26050.) The records are indexed by the groom’s surname using the first and third letter. The information on the cards includes the names of the bride and groom, the place of the marriage, and usually the towns of residence of both.

New Hampshire. Division of Vital Statistics. *Bride’s Index, 1640–1900*. Concord, N.H.: Division of Vital Statistics, 1975. (FHL films 975678–94; computer number 31632.) These records include an index to brides and the names of the mothers of the brides and grooms. They are arranged alphabetically by the first and third letter of the surname.


You can obtain copies of the state records by writing to:

Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics
Division of Vital Records Administration
71 SOUTH FRUIT STREET
Concord, NH 03301
Telephone: 603-271-4650
Internet address: [sos.nh.gov/vitalrecords](http://sos.nh.gov/vitalrecords)

Since vital records were kept from the founding of a town, also search the town records for the original information. See the “Town Records” section of this outline for details. Vital records can be found in the Family History Library Catalog Locality Search under:

NEW HAMPSHIRE - VITAL RECORDS
NEW HAMPSHIRE, [COUNTY] - VITAL RECORDS
NEW HAMPSHIRE, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - VITAL RECORDS
FOR FURTHER READING

The following handbooks will give you more detailed information about New Hampshire research and records:

Carpenter, Randall C. *Descriptive Inventory of the New Hampshire Collection*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1983. (FHL book 974.2 A3c; fiche 6075931; computer number 255320.) This book provides the microfilm numbers of the New Hampshire records at the Family History Library as of 1983. It has information about the creation of each town and contains maps of the townships in each county. It includes an index to town, church, cemetery, and various other types of records.


COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Family History Library welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to:

Publications Coordination
Family History Library
35 N. West Temple Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3400

We appreciate the archivists, librarians, and others who have reviewed this outline and shared helpful information.

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Fax: 801-240-2494

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New Hampshire Historical Background

History

Effective family research requires some understanding of the historical events that may have affected your family and the records about them. Learning about wars, governments, laws, migrations, and religious trends may help you understand political boundaries, family movements, and settlement patterns. These events may have led to the creation of records that your family was listed in, such as land and military documents.

The following important events in the history of New Hampshire affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements:

1623–1638 The first permanent English settlements in New Hampshire were established at Dover, Portsmouth, Exeter, and Hampton by traders and religious dissenters.

1641–1679 The New Hampshire settlements were under the jurisdiction of Massachusetts.

1679 New Hampshire became a separate royal province but had the same governor as Massachusetts for most of the period before 1741.

1741 Boundary disputes with Massachusetts were settled.

1750s American victories over the Indians opened western New Hampshire to settlement.

1764 The western boundary was declared to be the west bank of the Connecticut River. Earlier, most of Vermont had been claimed by New Hampshire.

1775–1783 Some Revolutionary War battles were fought in New Hampshire.

1788 New Hampshire ratified the United States Constitution to become the ninth state.

1819 The Toleration Act was passed. New Hampshire residents could no longer be taxed to support the Congregational Church or any other church.

1842 The boundary between New Hampshire and the province of Quebec was settled. At about this time, farm workers and overseas immigrants began moving to New Hampshire cities to work in the textile and shoe factories.

1861–1865 About 39,000 New Hampshire men served in the Union Army.

1898 Over 300,000 men were involved in the Spanish-American War, which was fought mainly in Cuba and the Philippines.

1917–1918 More than 26 million men from the United States ages 18 through 45 registered with the Selective Service for World War I, and over 4.7 million American men and women served during the war.

1930s The Great Depression closed many factories and mills. Many small farms were abandoned, and many families moved to cities.
1940–1945 Over 50.6 million men ages 18 to 65 registered with the Selective Service. Over 16.3 million American men and women served in the armed forces during World War II.

1950–1953 Over 5.7 million American men and women served in the Korean War.

1950s–1960s The building of interstate highways made it easier for people to move long distances.


Your ancestors will become more interesting to you if you also use histories to learn about the events that were of interest to them or that they may have been involved in. For example, by using a history you might learn about the events that occurred in the year your great-grandparents were married.

**Historical Sources**

You may find state or local histories in the Family History Library Catalog under New Hampshire or the county or the town. For descriptions of records available through Family History Centers or the Family History Library, click on Family History Library Catalog in the window to the left. The descriptions give book or film numbers, which you need to find or to order the records.

**Local Histories**

Some of the most valuable sources for family history research are local histories. Published histories of towns, counties, and states usually contain accounts of families. They describe the settlement of the area and the founding of churches, schools, and businesses. You can also find lists of pioneers, soldiers, and civil officials. Even if your ancestor is not listed, information on other relatives may be included that will provide important clues for locating your ancestor. A local history may also suggest other records to search.

Most county and town histories include separate sections or volumes containing biographical information. These may include information on 50 percent or more of the families in the locality.

In addition, local histories should be studied and enjoyed for the background information they can provide about your family's lifestyle and the community and environment in which your family lived.

About 5,000 county histories have been published for over 80 percent of the counties in the United States. For many counties there is more than one history. In addition, tens of thousands of histories have been written about local towns and communities. Bibliographies that list these histories are available for nearly every state.

For descriptions of bibliographies for New Hampshire available through Family History Centers or the Family History Library, click on Family History Library Catalog in the window to the left. Look under BIBLIOGRAPHY or HISTORY - BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Bibliographies of local histories for New Hampshire are:


Local histories are extensively collected by the Family History Library, public and university libraries, and state and local historical societies. Two useful guides are:


**State History**


**United States History**

The following are only a few of the many sources that are available at most large libraries:


*Dictionary of American History*, Revised ed., 8 vols. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1976. (FHL book 973 H2ad.) This includes historical sketches on various topics in U.S. history, such as wars, people, laws, and organizations.
New Hampshire Statewide Indexes and Collections

Guide

Introduction

In the United States, information about your ancestors is often found in town and county records. If you know which state but not the town or county your ancestor lived in, check the following statewide indexes to find the town or county. Then search records for that town or county.

The indexes and collections listed below index various sources of information, such as histories, vital records, biographies, tax lists, immigration records, etc. You may find additional information about your ancestor other than the town or county of residence. The listings may contain:

• The author and title of the source.
• The Family History Library (FHL) book, film, fiche, or compact disc number. If the words beginning with appear before the film number, check the Family History Library Catalog for additional films.
• The name of the repository where the source can be found if the source is not available at the Family History Library.

What You Are Looking For

• Your ancestor’s name in an index or collection.
• Where the ancestor was living

Steps

These 2 steps will help you find information about your ancestor in statewide indexes or collections.

Step 1. Find your ancestor’s name in statewide indexes or collections.

On the list below, if your ancestor lived between the years shown on the left, he or she may be listed in the source on the right.

1580–1900s

Ancestral File
International Genealogical Index
Family History Library Catalog - Surname Search
To see these files, click here.

1580–1908 Stearns, Ezra S., Comp. Genealogical and Family History of the State of New Hampshire: A Record of the Achievements of Her People in the Making of a Commonwealth and the Founding of a Nation. (FHL book 974.2 D2s, 4 vols.; on films 1000198, or 1550331–32; fiche 6046857.) Has many family histories back to the 1600s.

1580–1900 New Hampshire. Registrar of Vital Statistics. *Index to Deaths, Early to 1900*. (FHL films 1001058–117.)

1580–1900 New Hampshire. Registrar of Vital Statistics. *Index to Marriages, Early to 1900*. (FHL films beginning with 1001120.)


1580–1850 New Hampshire Secretary of State. *Index to Early Town Records of New Hampshire, 1639–1910*. (FHL films beginning with 014942.) Note: On the cards you may find these abbreviations: FR=birth record; MR=marriage record.


1580–1980 Copeley, William N. *Index to Genealogies in New Hampshire Town Histories*. (FHL book 974.2 D22c; fiche 6010808.) This tells you which town histories to go to in order to find genealogies of New Hampshire families.


1580–1771 Batchellor, Albert S., ed. *Probate Records of the Province of New Hampshire*. (FHL book 974.2 P2p; 9 vols. in 12, 1635–1771; another set in FHL book 974.2 N2nhp vols. 1–9; films beginning with 1033742 item 2; fiche 6046775.) These volumes have detailed abstracts of the probate records up to 1771.

1580–1772 New Hampshire Courts. *Colonial Court Records, 1638–1772 Approx*. (FHL films beginning with 1001334.) This is a detailed card index to names in the court records.

1580–1772 New Hampshire (Colony). *Province Deeds and Probate Records from 1623–1772*. (FHL films beginning with 1001345.) This is an excellent typed card index to names in wills and deeds up to 1772.

1580–1900 Towle, Glenn C. *New Hampshire Genealogical Digest, 1623–1900*. (FHL book 974.2 D32t.) Indexes information from many sources.


1580–1975 New Hampshire Historical Society. *Card Index to Genealogies, Published and Manuscript*. (FHL films 1001440–441 item 1.)

New Hampshire Statewide Indexes and Collections

1580–1990 Piscataqua Pioneers. *Applications for Membership, 1908–1990.* (FHL films beginning with 1036925.) Has records concerning early settlers in Maine and New Hampshire; has two alphabetical lists.

1580–1920s Filby, P. William. *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index: A Guide to Published Arrival Records of About 500,000 Passengers Who Came to the United States and Canada in the Seventeenth, Eighteenth, and Nineteenth Centuries.* (FHL book 973 W32p; some vols. on films.) There are also cumulative indexes; yearly supplements. This is an excellent source for finding information on immigrants.

1580–present Periodical Source Index (PERSI) lists records (by place or surname) that were published in genealogical magazines or periodicals. This resource should not be overlooked. It is available on the Internet through Ancestry.com. (FHL book 973 D25 per, various combined indexes and, annual supplements; fiche 6016863, 6016864; compact disc no. 61.)

1580–1760s Torrey, Clarence. *New England Marriages Prior to 1700.* (FHL book 974 V2t; films 929494–500.) Often has birth and death dates. Microfilms list the sources.

1580–1760s Sanborn, Melinde Lutz. *Supplement to Torrey's New England Marriages Prior to 1700.* (FHL book 974 V2t supp.) Often has birth and death dates also.

1580–1750s Sanborn, Melinde Lutz. *Second Supplement to Torrey's New England Marriages Prior to 1700.* (FHL book 974 V2t supp 2.) Often has birth and death dates also.

1580–present *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register.* (FHL book 974 B2ne; films beginning with 1704726; also on compact disc 33.) See indexes through vol. 151.

1580–1700s Colket, Meredith B. *Founders of Early American Families: Emigrants from Europe, 1607–1657.* (FHL book 973 W2cm.) This book refers to recent articles and books which trace some family lines to the 1980s.


1580–1963 Smith, Danny Dick. *Walter Goodwin Davis: A Scholar's Unique Contribution to New England Genealogy, with an Index to the Principal Surnames in His Works.* (FHL book 974 D2sd.) This is an index to Walter G. Davis’ sixteen volumes. These often take lines back to the immigrant ancestor.


1580–1980s *Directory of Maine Pioneer Ancestors.* (FHL book 974.1 D24m.) By Downeast Ancestry; may list New Hampshire families.

1580–1750 Gray, Philip H. *Penobscot Pioneers.* (FHL book 974.1 D2g, vols. 1–4.) A Maine source, but may list New Hampshire families.


1580–1940 **American Genealogical-Biographical Index to American Genealogical Biographical and Local History Materials.** (FHL book 973 D22ag, vols. 1–188+; on films starting with 1698167.)


1580–1850 **Ireland, Norma O.** *Cutter Index: A Consolidated Index of Cutter's Nine Genealogy Series.* (FHL book 974 D22i; film 1036507 item 6; fiche 6046737.) This is a surname index to several sets of genealogical compendia for New England.

1580–1995 **The American Genealogist.** (FHL book 973 D25aga; films beginning with 1425624.) This is a periodical with many New England genealogies; see index by Jean D. Worden, (FHL book 973 D25aga index).

1580–1775 **The Mayflower Descendant: a Quarterly Magazine of Pilgrim Genealogy and History.** (FHL book 974.4 D25md.)

1580–1775 **Genealogies of Mayflower Families; From the New England Historical and Genealogical Register.** (FHL book 974.4 D2gm.)


1580–1908 **Index to American Genealogies; and to Genealogical Material Contained in All Works, Such as Town Histories, County Histories, Local Histories, Historical Society Publications, Biographies, Historical Periodicals, and Kindred Works.** (FHL book 973 D22m; film 599811 or 485946; fiche 6051301.) Known as Munsell's Index.


1580–present **New Hampshire Genealogical Record: An Illustrated Quarterly Magazine Devoted to Genealogy, History, and Biography: Official Organ of the New Hampshire Genealogical Society.** (FHL book 974.2 D25nh; films beginning with 014928.) A periodical; see indexes; originally published 1904–1910 and started again in 1990.
New Hampshire Statewide Indexes and Collections


1600–1776  Goss, Mrs. Charles C. **Colonial Gravestone Inscriptions in the State New Hampshire: Published by the Historic Activities Committee of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of New Hampshire, From Collections Made by Committees From 1913 to 1942.** (FHL book 974.2 V3g; film 823810 item 3.) Information about persons who died 1680 to 1776.

1650–1732  Holbrook, Jay Mack. **New Hampshire in 1732 Census.** (FHL book 974.2 X4hj.)

1650–1900  New Hampshire. Registrar of Vital Statistics. **Index to Births, Early to 1900.** (On FHL films beginning with 1000480.)

1650–1800  New Hampshire. **Warnings Out of Town, Early to 1800. Approximately.** (FHL film 1001438, index.) The warnings are on films 983568–70, by town; the towns are in alphabetical order.

1650–1970  Kirkham, E. Kay. **An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States: 45,500 References as Taken From the Microfilm at the Genealogical Society of Utah.** (FHL book 973 D22kk vol. 2; fiche 6089184.) Pages 1–49 index the next item below by surname.

1650–1950  Daughters of the American Revolution. **Genealogical Collection.** (On FHL films beginning with 870152.) A surname index is found in the source above.

1660–1742  Oesterlin, Pauline Johnson. **New Hampshire 1742 Estate List.** (FHL 974.2 R2o.)


1700–1880  Gray, Ruth, ed. **Maine Families in 1790.** (FHL book 974.1 D2m, 6 vols.) Contains genealogies of families listed in the Maine 1790 census; an ongoing project; may list families who at one time lived in New Hampshire.


1700–1860  White, Virgil D. **Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files.** (FHL book 973 M28g, 4 vols.) Index in vol. 4.

1700–1868  **D.A.R. Revolutionary War Burial Index.** (FHL films 1307675–82.) Alphabetical; prepared by Brigham Young University from DAR records; often lists name, birth date, death date, burial place, name of cemetery, company or regiment, sometimes gives the place of birth, etc. About 67,000 names.


1700–1835  **The Pension Roll of 1835 Indexed Edition.** (FHL book 973 M24ua 1992, vols. 1–4.) Vol. 4 has the index; vols. 1–4 list Revolutionary War soldiers; gives county of residence, state of service, and often age; often has data on soldiers who received pensions and died from 1820s–1835.
1700–1840  
*A General Index to a Census of Pensioners For Revolutionary or Military Service, 1840.* (FHL book 973 X2pc index; film 899835 items 1–2; fiche 6046771.) Lists Revolutionary War pensioners whose names are on the 1840 census lists.

After using the general index, go to the original book (FHL book Ref 973 X2pc 1967; film 899835 item 3.) This book gives the pensioner's town of residence, the name of the head of household where he was living, and age of pensioner or his widow.

1700–1783  

1700–1783  

1700–1783  

1700–1800  

1720–1920  
*Census indexes, 1790–1860, 1880, 1900, and 1920.* In the window to the left click on *Family History Library Catalog.* Then select CENSUS or CENSUS - INDEXES from the topics that are listed.

1720–1906  

1720–1798  
Fipphen, John S. *1798 Direct Tax, New Hampshire District #13: Consisting of the Towns of Alton, Brookfield, Effingham, Middleton, New Durham, Ossippe, Tuftonboro, Wakefield, and Wolfeboro.* (FHL book 974.2 R4f.) Has records of several towns; incomplete.

1740–1900  
White, Virgil D. *Index to War of 1812 Pension Files.* (FHL book 973 M22i; vols. 1–3.)

1740–1938  
New Hampshire. Registrar of Vital Statistics. *Index to Divorces and Annulments Prior to 1938.* (FHL films 1001323–330.)

1750–1852  
Chipman, Scott Lee. *New England Vital Records from The Exeter News-Letter.* (FHL book 974 V2c, 3 vols.) Covers events in the years 1831–1852; more volumes may be published.

1800–1865  
United States Adjutant General's Office. *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who served in Organizations from the State of New Hampshire.* (FHL films 882018–30.)

1800–1934  
United States. Veterans Administration. *General Index to Pension Files, 1861–1934.* (On 544 FHL films beginning with 540757.) This is a card index to pension applications of Civil War and Spanish-American War veterans; copies of the original files may be ordered from the National Archives.

1800–1865  
New Hampshire Adjutant General's Office. *Revised Register of the Soldiers and Sailors of New Hampshire in the War of the Rebellion, 1861–1866.* (FHL book Q 974.2 M23nh; film 1697872 items 1–2.) Often mentions the soldier's place of birth, age, residence, and place and date of death.
1800–1865  
*Civil War Service Record, Card File Index, 1860–1865.* (On FHL films beginning with 1001781.) Also has separate index of men who were substitutes for other men.

1800–1890  
Jackson, Ronald Vern, et. al. 1890 *New Hampshire Census Index: Special Schedule of the eleventh Census (1890) Enumerating Union Veterans and of Union Veterans of the Civil War.* (FHL book 974.2 X22j, 1890.)

1873–1918  
Haulsee, W. M. *Soldiers of the Great War.* (FHL book 973 M23s; fiche 6051244.) Vol. 2 has New Hampshire. Lists soldiers who died in World War I.

1873–1918  
United States Selective Service System. *New Hampshire, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918.* (On 17 FHL films beginning with 1711715.)

For ideas on ways your ancestor's name might be spelled by indexers or in collections, see Name Variations.

**Step 2. Copy and document the information.**

The best method of copying information is to:

- Make a photocopy of the page(s) that include your ancestor's name.
- Document where the information came from by writing the title, call number, and page number of the index or collection on the photocopy. Also write the name of the library or archive.

**Where to Find It**

**Family History Centers and the Family History Library**

You can use the Family History Library book collection only at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, but many of our books have been microfilmed. Most of the films can be requested and used at our Family History Centers. To locate the address for the nearest Family History Center, click here.

For information about contacting or visiting the library or a center, see *Family History Library and Family History Centers*.

**Libraries and Archives**

You may be able to find the books at public or college libraries. If these libraries do not have a copy of the book you need, they may be able to order it from another library on interlibrary loan.

To use interlibrary loan:

- Go to a public or college library.
- Ask the librarian to order a book or microfilm for you through interlibrary loan from another library. You need the title of the item and the name of the author.
- The library staff will direct you in their procedures. Sometimes this is free; sometimes there is a small fee.

You can find addresses and phone numbers for most libraries and archives in the *American Library Directory*, published by the American Library Association. The *American Library Directory* is available at most public and college libraries.
Maps
Computer Resources

MapQuest Maps
Summary: Must know address, city, state, and zip code; more recent maps

Animap
BYU FHL – on computer
Summary: Has each state with maps. Shows county boundary changes and allows marking of cities and finds distances.

Google Maps
Summary: Has address finder, allows keyword searching, and allows street, satellite, or terrain views

Geology.com Maps
Summary: Has Relief, Elevation, Drainage, Political and Road Maps for each state.
New Hampshire Maps Bibliography


**Summary:** Shows the townships in a particular county for each state except Hawaii and Alaska. Maps start after 1930.

**Evaluation of New Hampshire Maps:** pp.627-636. One page history of state, list of counties and counties with minor civil divisions. Maps of census county divisions.


**Summary:** The previous map was copied from page 483 of this book. On the next page is a listing of the towns, the date the town was formed, and the county and parent county. The section on New Hampshire also includes a brief history and genealogical research information.


**Summary:** List of Counties for each state.

**Evaluation of New Hampshire maps:** Maps are of the revolutionary period, 1804, 1823, 1838, 1860 and 1960, pp. 94-101.


**Summary:** Shows changes in boundaries in United States from Colonial days up to 1909. Civil war maps and information.

**Evaluation of New Hampshire maps:** State historical information, p.23; 1790-1900 map, p. 73; 1823 map, p. 103; 1909 map, p. 228.


**Summary:** New Hampshire maps and information on pages 202-208. Includes maps comparing New Hampshire to other states, cultural features, population density, agriculture, economic facts, etc. Also includes a brief state history.
Summary: History of Federal Censuses, records, and completeness. U.S. Maps from 1790 - 1920 showing U.S. boundary changes. Maps of each state for each census year beginning when the state was created up through 1920. Evaluation of New Hampshire maps: pp.216-223.

Map Collection on the 2nd floor of the old section of HBLL library. One map drawer for the state of New Hampshire.

G3740-G3744 State maps from 1800s to 2000. Many of the maps show county boundaries and county seats, railroad lines, private land grants, population, etc. Some maps include information about what was happening that year.

To find more maps, search the byline for New Hampshire maps, atlases, and gazetteers.
Federal censuses are taken every 10 years. New Hampshire residents are included in censuses from 1790 through 1920.

- The 1790 through 1840 censuses give the name of the head of each household. Other household members are mentioned only by age groupings of males and females.
- The 1850 census was the first federal census to give the names of all members of each household.

For more information about the U.S. Federal Censuses, see Background.

What you are looking for

The information you find varies from record to record. These records may include:

- Names of family members.
- Ages of family members, which you can use to calculate birth or marriage years.
- The county and state where your ancestors lived.
- People living with (or gone from) the family.
- Relatives who may have lived nearby.

Steps

These 5 steps will help you use census records.

Step 1. Determine which censuses might include your ancestors.

Match the probable time your ancestor was in New Hampshire with the census years. This will determine which censuses you will search.
Step 2. Determine a census to start with.

Start with the last census taken during the life of your ancestor.

The censuses from **1850 to 1920** give more information and include the name, age, and birthplace of every person in each household.

The censuses from **1790 to 1840** give the name of the head of each household and the number of males and females in age groups **without** their names.

The censuses for 1930 and later are available from the U.S. Census Bureau only.

For ways the census can help you find your ancestor's parents, see Tip 1.

Step 3. Search the census.

For instructions on how to search a specific census, click on one of the following years:

- 1790
- 1800
- 1810
- 1820
- 1830
- 1840
- 1850
- 1860
- 1870
- 1880
- 1890
- 1900
- 1910
- 1920

For information about archives and libraries that have census records, see Where to Find It.

Step 4. Search another census.

Repeat steps 2 and 3 until you search all the censuses taken during the life span of your ancestor. Each census may contain additional information.

If you skip a census taken when your ancestor lived, you risk missing additional information, such as names of in-laws or other relatives who may have lived with or near the family. Those names and relationships may help you identify earlier generations.

For other information about how to search the census, see Tips.

Step 5. Analyze the information you obtain from the censuses.

To effectively use the information from the census, ask yourself these questions:

- Who was in the family?
- About when were they born?
- Where were they born? (Birthplaces are shown in censuses for 1850 to 1920.)
- Where were they living—town or township, county, and state?
- Where were their parents born? (Birthplaces are shown in censuses for 1880 to 1920.)
- Do they have neighbors with the same last name? Could they be relatives?

For more about comparing information in several censuses, see Tip 3.
Tips

Tip 1. How can the census help me find my ancestor’s parents?

Searching the census taken closest to the time the ancestor married has the best possibility of finding your ancestor and spouse living close to their parents and other family members.

Tip 2. How can I understand the information better?

Sometimes knowing why the census taker asked a question can help you understand the answer. Detailed instructions given to census takers are in the book, *Twenty Censuses: Population and Housing Questions 1790–1980*, updated as *200 Years of U.S. Census Taking*, both by the United States Census Bureau.

Tip 3. How can comparing information in more than one census help me?

Comparing censuses indicates:

- Changes in who was in the household, such as children leaving home or the death of grandparents or a child.
- Changes in neighbors. Remember, neighbors might be relatives or in-laws.
- Changes about each individual, such as age.
- Movement of the family within New Hampshire to a different county or town.
- Movement of the family out of New Hampshire if the family no longer appears in the census for New Hampshire.

You will eventually want to know every country, state, county, township, and town where your ancestor was located. You can then check information in other records for those places. A careful check of all available federal census records can help you identify those places.

The age and estimated birth date for an individual may vary greatly from census to census. Often ages are listed more accurately for young children than for older adults.

Background

Description

A census is a count and a description of the population of a country, colony, territory, state, county, or city. Census records are also called census schedules or population schedules.

Early censuses are basically head counts. Later censuses give information about marriage, immigration, and literacy. United States censuses are useful because they begin early and cover a large portion of the population.

What U.S. Federal Censuses Are Available

Censuses have been taken by the United States government every 10 years since 1790. The 1920 census is the most recent federal census available to the public; the 1930 census will be released in 2002. In 1885 the federal government also helped 5 states or territories (Colorado, Florida, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Dakota Territory) conduct special censuses.
Most of the 1890 census was destroyed by fire. However, portions of a special schedule taken in 1890, of Union Civil War veterans and their widows, have survived. The surviving 1890 veterans' schedules cover Washington D.C., half of Kentucky, and all of Louisiana through Wyoming (the states are in alphabetical order from K to W). These schedules contain approximately 700,000 names.

**Types of Census Schedules**

The following census schedules are available for New Hampshire and were created in various years by the federal government:

- **Population schedules** list a large portion of the population; most are well-indexed and are available at many repositories.
- **Mortality schedules** list those who died in the 12 months prior to the day the census was taken for the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.
- **1840 pensioners' schedules** list people who were receiving pensions in 1840. Included were men who fought in the Revolutionary War or in the War of 1812 or their widows.
- **1890 veterans' schedules** list Union veterans from the Civil War or their widows who were living in 1890.
- **Agricultural schedules** list data about farms and the names of the farmers for the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.
- **Manufacturing or industrial schedules** list data about businesses and industries for the 1810 (Cheshire and Strafford Counties only), 1820, 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.

**How Censuses Were Taken**

People called enumerators were hired by the United States government to take the census. The enumerators were given forms to fill out and were assigned to gather information about everyone living in a certain area or district. Enumerators could visit houses in any order, so families who are listed together in the census may or may not have been neighbors. The accuracy of the enumerators and the readability of their handwriting varies.

After the census was taken, usually one copy was sent to the state and another to the federal government. Sometimes copies were also kept by the counties. Few of the state and county copies survived.

**When Censuses Were Taken**

Census takers were supposed to gather information about the people who were part of each household on the following dates:

- 1790 to 1820: First Monday in August
- 1830 to 1900: 1 June (2 June in 1890)
- 1910: 15 April
- 1920: 1 January
- 1930: 1 April

If your ancestor was born in the census year, your ancestor should be listed only if he or she was born before the census date.

If your ancestor died in the census year, your ancestor should be listed only if he or she died after the census date.

The census may have actually taken several months to complete and may reflect births and deaths after the census date.
Censuses from 1930 to the Present

U.S. Federal Censuses from 1930 to the present are confidential. The 1930 census will be available in 2002. You may ask the U.S. Census Bureau to send information about:

• Yourself.
• Another living person, if you are that person's "authorized representative."
• Deceased individuals, if you are "their heirs or administrators."

You may request information for only one person at a time. There is a fee for each search. To request information, you must provide the person's name, address at the time of the census, and other details on Form BC-600, available from the U.S. Census Bureau.

For the address of the U.S. Census Bureau, see Where to Find It.

Colonial, State, and Local Censuses

Colonial, state, and local governments also took censuses. Nonfederal censuses generally contain information similar to and sometimes more than federal censuses of the same period.


New Hampshire became a state in 1788. No state censuses were taken for New Hampshire.

Colonial, state, and local censuses may be available on the Internet, at Family History Centers, the Family History Library, and in state and local archives and libraries.

Where to Find It

Internet

Many Internet sites include census records, census indexes, or information about censuses. You may find the following sites helpful:

• New Hampshire GenWeb and USGenWeb have links to indexes and records and may have links to archives, libraries, and genealogical and historical societies.
• CensusLinks on the 'Net includes links to Internet sites that have United States and Canada censuses and indexes. It includes information about censuses and how to use them, a Soundex calculator, census forms you can print, an age calculator, and more.
• The Archives and Libraries section of the New Hampshire Research Outline lists Internet addresses for several New Hampshire archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of New Hampshire census records, and the Internet sites may list what records they have.

Family History Centers

Many Family History Centers keep copies of some census microfilms. Family History Centers can borrow microfilms of a U.S. Federal Census from the Family History Library. A small fee is charged to have a microfilm sent to a center.

You may request photocopies of U.S. Federal Censuses from the Family History Library. Staff at the Family History Center can show you how to request this service.

Family History Centers are located throughout the United States and other areas of the world. See Family History Centers for the address and phone number of the center nearest you.
Family History Library

The Family History Library has complete sets of the existing U.S. Federal Censuses from 1790 to 1920. No fee is charged for using census microfilms in person.

For a list of indexes and other census records, click on Family History Library Catalog in the window to the left. Select from the list of titles to see descriptions of the records with the film or book call numbers. Use that information to obtain the records at a family history center or at the Family History Library.

For information about contacting or visiting the library, see Family History Library and Family History Centers.

National Archives

Copies of the existing federal censuses from 1790 to 1920 are available in the Microfilm Research Room in the National Archives Building and at the 13 Regional National Archives. The National Archives has a microfilm rental program for census records. Call 301-604-3699 for rental information. For information on how to order photocopies of census records from the National Archives, click here.

College and Public Libraries

Many college libraries have copies of census microfilms, particularly for their own states. Many larger public libraries have copies of the census soundex and population schedules. Smaller public libraries may be able to obtain the records through interlibrary loan.

State Archives, Libraries, and Historical Societies

The Archives and Libraries section of the New Hampshire Research Outline lists Internet and mailing addresses for several New Hampshire archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of New Hampshire census records, and the Internet sites may list what records they have.

U.S. Census Bureau

To request information from the 1930 census and later censuses, you must provide your relative's name, address, and other details on Form BC-600, available from:

The U.S. Census Bureau  
P.O. Box 1545  
Jeffersonville, IN 47131  
Telephone: 812-218-3300

Genealogical Search Services

Many genealogical search services will search the census for a fee. These sources can help you find a genealogical search service:

- CyndiList lists many companies and individuals who do research and mentions publications about how to hire a professional genealogist.
- Advertisements in major genealogical journals may help you find a researcher.

For more information, see Hiring a Professional Genealogist.
U.S. State Censuses

NEW HAMPSHIRE

1633-99
New Hampshire residents, 1633-1699.

1732
New Hampshire 1732 census.

1776
New Hampshire 1776 census.
Belknap, Jeremy. *The History of New Hampshire*. New York: Arno Press, 1972. Microfiche F 34 .B46 also Microfiche 080 Sh64a no. 27869 also Microfiche 080 Sh64a no. 24791 also Microfiche 080 Sh64 EVANS 24088


Charlton, Edwin Azro. *New Hampshire as it is*. Claremont, NH: Tracy and Sanford, 1855. Microfiche Z 1236 .L5 1971 no. 13949 also F 34 .C48 1855


Sanborn, Edwin D. *History of New Hampshire, from its First Discovery to the Year 1830*:

Last updated 12/07
NEW HAMPSHIRE

with Dissertations upon the Rise of Opinions and Institutions...to the Year 1874.
Manchester, NH: J.B. Clarke, 1875. F 34 .S19 also Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 11040


Belknap County
Created in 1840 from Strafford and Merrimac counties


Carroll County
Created in 1840 from Strafford County.


Fox, Gustavus Vasa. Facts about the Carroll County Kearsarge Mountain of New Hampshire. S.l.: s.n., 1877?. Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 9196


Last updated 12/07
NEW HAMPSHIRE


Cheshire County
Created 1771, original county.

Aldrich, George. Walpole, as it was and as it is; Containing the Complete Civil History of the Town from 1749 to 1879; Together with a History of all the Church Organizations. Claremont, NH: The Clarmemont Manufacturing Co., 1880. F 44 .W2 A3


Griffin, Simon G. The History of the Town of Keene from 1732, When the Township was Granted by Massachusetts, to 1874, When it Became a City. Keene, NH: Sentinel Printing Co., 1904. F 44 .K2 G8


Kingsbury, Frank B. History of the Town of Surry, Cheshire County, New Hampshire: From Date of Severance from Gilsum and Westmoreland, 1769-1922, with a Genealogical Register and Map of the Town. Surry, N.H.: The Town,
NEW HAMPSHIRE

1925. Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 9436 also Microfiche Z 1236 .L5 1971 no. 10672-73


Coos County
Created 1803 from Grafton County.


The One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary of Lancaster, New Hampshire. Lancaster, NH: The Committee, 1914. F 44 .L2 L23


Grafton County
Created 1771, original county.


Downs, Charles D. History of Lebanon, New Hampshire, 1761-1887. Concord, NH; Rumford Printing Company, 1908. F 44 .L4 D6 also Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 9311


Last updated 12/07
**NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Lord, John K. The History of the Town of Hanover, New Hampshire. Hanover, NH: The Dartmouth Press, 1928. F 44 .H41 L8 also Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 9270


Musgrove, R.W. History of the Town of Bristol, Grafton County. Bristol, NH: R.W.Musgrove, 1904. F 44 .B76 M91 vol 1

Willey, Benjamin G. Incidents in White Mountain History: Containing facts relating to the discovery and settlement of the mountains, Indian history and traditions, a minute and authentic account of the destruction of the Willey family, geology and temperature of the mountains: together with numerous anecdotes illustrating life in the back woods. Boston: Published by Nathaniel Noyes, 1856. F 41.44 W712

**Hillsborough County**

Created 1771, original county.


Farmer, John. Historical Sketch of Amherst, in the County of Hillsborough, in New Hampshire: From its First Settlement to the Year MDCCCXXXVII. Concord, NH: Printed by A.M'Farland, 1837. Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8009

Last updated 12/07
NEW HAMPSHIRE


Hayward, William W. History of Hancock, New Hampshire. Lowell, MA: Vox Populi Press, 1889. F 44 .H4 H4 also Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 9235 also Microfiche Z 1236 .L5 1971 no. 10388-89

Hill, Ebenezer. The Substance of Two Lectures, on the History of Mason. Fitchburg, MA: WJ Merriam, Printer, 1846. Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 9329

Hill, John B. History of the Town of Mason, New Hampshire from the First Grant in 1749, to the Year 1858. Boston, MA: Lucius A. Elliot & Co., 1858. F 44 .M4 H6


Ramsdell, George A. History of Milford. Concord, NH; The Rumford Press, 1901. F 44 .M6 R2

Secomb, Daniel F. History of the Town of Amherst, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire. Concord, NH: Evans, Sleeper & Woodbury, 1883. Microfiche Z 1236 .L5 1971 no. 14078-79 also Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8931

The Second Hundred Years of Hancock, New Hampshire. Canaan, NH: Published for the town of Hancock by S.W. Huse & Co., 1979. F 44 .H4 S42


Merrimack County
Created 1823 from Rockingham and Hillsborough counties

Clark, Lyman. Civil and Religious History of Andover Center. Haverhill, MA: C.C Morse & Son, 1901. F 44 .A6 C5 also Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8935

Cogswell, Leander W. History of the Town of Henniker, Merrimack County, New Hampshire: From the Date of the Canada Grant by the Province of Massachusetts in 1735, to 1880: With a Genealogical register of the Families of Henniker. Concord, NH: Printed by the Republican Press Association, 1880. Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 9230


Lord, Charles Chase. Life and Times in Hopkinton, NH. Concord, NH: Republican Press Association, 1890. Microfiche Z 1236 .L5 1971 no. 11289 also Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 9217


Moore, Jacob Bailey. Annals of the Town of Concord, in the County of Merrimack, and State of New Hampshire, From its First Settlement in the Year
NEW HAMPSHIRE

1726, to the Year 1823: With Several Biographical Sketches: To Which is Added, a Memoir of the Penacook Indians. Concord, NH: J.B. Moore, 1824. Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8955


West Concord Villagers. Recollections of West Concord. West Concord, NH; The Villagers, 1976. F 44 .W55 W47

Rockingham County
Created 1771, original county.


Last updated 12/07


Sawyer, Roland D. History of Kensington, 1663-1945. 1946. F 44 .K37 S3

Strafford County
Created 1771, original county.


Nye, A.E.G. Dover, New Hampshire: Its History and Industries Issued as an Illustrated Souvenir in Commemoration of the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of Foster’s Daily Democrat, Descriptive of the City and its Manufacturing and Business Interests: Containing: Concise History, Old Landmark. Dover, NH: G.J. Foster, 1893. F 44 .D7 N9


Scales, John. History of Dover, New Hampshire: Containing Historical Genealogical and Industrial Data of its Early Settlers, Their Struggles, and

Last updated 12/07
Triumphs. Manchester, NH: Printed by Authority of the City Councils, 1923. Microfiche Z 1236 .L5 1971 no. 16148 also Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 9212


Thompson, Mary P. Landmarks in Ancient Dover, New Hampshire. Durham, NH: s.n., 1892. Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 9219


Sullivan County
Created in 1827 from Cheshire County.


Crosby, Jaazaniah. History of Charlestown in New Hampshire: From its First Grant by the Province of Massachusetts in 1735, to the Year 1833. Concord, NH: Marsh, Capen & Lyon, 1833. Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 9211


Merrill, John L. History of Acwoth: With the Proceedings of the Centennial Anniversary, Genealogical Records and Register of Farms. Acwoth, NH: Published by the town, 1869. F 44 .A1 M5


Other New Hampshire Research Helps

Dartmouth College Genealogy Research Guide  

New Hampshire Archives Genealogy Resources  

New Hampshire County Formation Maps  
http://www.mynewhampshiregenealogy.com/nh_maps/nh_cf.htm

Cyndi’s List New Hampshire Links  
http://www.cyndislist.com/nh.htm

Rootsweb New Hampshire Page  

FamilySearch Wiki  
www.familysearchwiki.org
## NEW HAMPSHIRE TOWNSHIPS

### Belknap County

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### Cheshire County

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## Merrimack County

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### Strafford County

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### Sullivan County

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Index to early town records of New Hampshire, 1639-1910.

Last name variation file: Bracketed names are incorrect variations as found in the records. Unbracketed names are the correct forms; these are the names to be found in the files.

Main names with variations: Variations are indented under main names. Other main names are distinguished from variations by C.R. (cross reference).

Surname variations   A - Cott   0014942
Surname variations   Cott - Faa   0014943
Surname variations   Faa - Lamp   0014944
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I. National Archives microfilm publications; M1299
New England marriages prior to 1700.

Author: Torrey, Clarence Almon, 1869-1962.

A record of 17th century New England marriages collected from printed and manuscript records in the New England Historic Genealogical Society. Collection lists married men, names of their wives, dates of marriages, places of residences, and sources of information.

Introduction and guide are found at the beginning of each microfilm.
Records are arranged alphabetically by husband's surname.

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