RESEARCH SOURCES FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORIC SITES

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NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Published town and county histories, often with genealogical and biographical sections or sketches; check your local library, your local historical society, the New Hampshire Historical Society library, 30 Park Street, Concord, N. H., 03301; Tel.: (603) 225-3381, and the New Hampshire State Library, 20 Park Street, Concord, 03301; Tel. (603) 271-2144).

Family genealogies; check your local library or historical society, the New Hampshire Historical Society library (30 Park Street, Concord) and the State Library (20 Park Street, Concord).

Additional genealogical material may be available on microforms through the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon), which maintains a reference facility, the Concord, New Hampshire, Stake Family History Center, at 90 Clinton Street, Concord, N. H., 03301; Tel.: (603) 225-2848.

Statewide cemetery records; on file at New Hampshire Historical Society library, 30 Park Street, Concord, N. H., 03301.

Town vital records (births, marriages, deaths); available through town clerks or at the New Hampshire Division of Vital Records Administration, located at the New Hampshire Division of Records Management and Archives, 71 South Fruit Street, Concord, N. H., 03301-2410; Tel.: (603) 271-4650.

Town records; microfilm copies available at the State Library. Also check with the town clerk and check any Town Papers deposited at the New Hampshire Division of Records Management and Archives, 71 South Fruit Street, Concord, N. H., 03301; Tel.: (603) 271-2236. Some towns maintain separate town archives collections that are independent of the library and historical society holdings.

Index to proper names in the microfilmed town records at the State Library. This card-file index lists all the proper names that appear in the microfilmed town records on file at the State Library; the index does not cover other town records that may be located elsewhere. This can be a quick finding aid for town affairs involving an individual person. Among the records indexed in this card file are vital records (births, marriages, deaths) that were recorded in town books.
United States Census reports, 1790 to present (every ten years); on microfilm at the State Library, and original volumes at the New Hampshire Division of Records Management and Archives. The first decades of the census list heads of families only, with indications of how many other people of either sex, and older or younger than sixteen years, were living in the household.

By 1850 or so, the census returns are more ample, listing by name, age, and occupation each person living in a given household. By this general period, there are also separate agricultural and industrial returns, which show the productivity of each farm and of each manufactory (including grist and saw mills). In some decades, the industrial censuses show the weeks or months of activity of seasonal operations like saw mills, the number of hands employed, the value of raw materials consumed, the value of finished products, and the type of motive power (even listing the types and horsepower of turbines for water-powered mills).

Deeds and wills; on file at the Registry of Deeds and the Registry of Probate at each county courthouse. New Hampshire probate records (wills and associated documents, excluding probate inventories) for the years 1635-1771 were published in volumes 31-39 of the New Hampshire Provincial and State Papers, 40 vols. (Concord: State of New Hampshire, 1867-1943). The original deeds and wills for this same period are filed at the New Hampshire Division of Records Management and Archives in Concord.

Court records; either at the New Hampshire Division of Records Management and Archives (if the county has relinquished them), or at the appropriate county courthouse. The New Hampshire province court records from 1640-1692, and court papers from 1652-1668, are published in volume 40 of the New Hampshire Provincial and State Papers, 40 vols. (Concord: State of New Hampshire, 1867-1943).

Town maps. Most accessible are:

1. the maps from the published Chace and Walling county map series of c. 1858-1860:


   ------. *Map of Hillsborough County, New Hampshire.* Boston, 1858.


Philadelphia, 1860.

New York, 1861.

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Topographical Map of Coos County, New Hampshire.
New York, 1861.

2. *Plan of the County of Strafford* [and Belknap and Carroll], 1820 (copy at
New Hampshire Historical Society);

Philadelphia, 1871;

4. The maps from the *Town and City Atlas of the State of New Hampshire* (Boston: D.
H. Hurd & Co., 1892). These town maps have been republished, in separate volumes
for each New Hampshire county, by Saco Valley Printing, 76 Main Street, Fryeburg,
Me., 04037; Tel.: (207) 935-2997. The atlas is also available on-line through the
Dimond Library at the University of New Hampshire at
http://docs.unh.edu/Hurd/pages/index.htm

5. George H. Walker Co. *Map of Strafford County, New Hampshire.*
Boston, 1899;

6. early proprietors’ maps for many towns, showing the original lots of the towns as
granted in the 1700s, published in volumes 24-28 of the *New Hampshire Provincial

The New Hampshire Division of Records Management and Archives and the New
Hampshire Historical Society have original manuscript proprietors’ maps (or later
tracings of these maps) for many New Hampshire towns.

All published town, county, and state maps of New Hampshire before 1900 are listed and
described in Cobb, *New Hampshire Maps* (see bibliography).

Also valuable are current and older United States Geological Survey maps, which are
highly accurate federal surveys at scales of one inch to a mile (1:62,500) or 2½ inches to
a mile (1:24,000). Current editions of these maps are available in many bookstores and
on-line through services like TerraServer:
(http://terraserver.homeadvisor.msn.com/default.asp). The Dimond Library at the
University of New Hampshire in Durham and the New Hampshire Historical Society in
Concord collect older editions of the maps. *The UNH collection may be accessed on the
Web at* http://docs.unh.edu/nhtopos/nhtopos.htm.

The New Hampshire Division of Records Management and Archives has a book of
manuscript maps compiled in 1804 for most towns in the state; microfilm copies of this
volume may be consulted at the New Hampshire Historical Society and the State Library.

Other maps, including unpublished manuscript maps, may be available at the New
Hampshire Historical Society, 30 Park Street, Concord, and the New Hampshire Division
of Records Management and Archives, 71 South Fruit Street, Concord. The State
Archives also collects the records of defunct surveyors’ offices.
Bird's-eye views of New Hampshire towns, mostly dating from the 1870s and 1880s, may be consulted at the New Hampshire Historical Society library; see the listing under “Ruell” in the bibliography. These maps may also be explored on-line by going to the Library of Congress site, clicking on “American Memory: American History in Words, Sound, and Pictures,” clicking on “Collection Finder,” clicking on “Maps,” and then clicking on “Panoramic Maps, 1847-1929.” You can search the Library of Congress collection of bird’s-eye views by keyword, geographic location, subject index, creator index, or title.

For some villages and urban areas, the Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps show buildings and utilities in great detail, sometimes beginning as early as 1875. Microfilm copies of the New Hampshire Sanborn maps are available at the New Hampshire Historical Society library.

White Pine Blister Rust maps were compiled over many years in the twentieth century under federal funding to indicate the extent of the tree disease and of its alternate hosts (currant and gooseberry bushes). Foresters who drew these maps often indicated stone walls, cellar holes, cemeteries, and other landscape features with considerable detail. A nearly complete series of the maps is held by the New Hampshire Division of Records Management and Archives; county foresters and town officials may have maps for particular counties or towns.

Aerial photographs can reveal individual buildings; roads; fields and other agricultural lands; stone walls and other property lines; other cultural features; and forest characteristics. Some aerial photographs (and the corresponding United States Geological Survey maps) can be searched on-line at sites like TerraServer: (http://terraserver.homeadvisor.msn.com/default.asp).

Aerial photographs are also available in various federal, state, or county agencies. The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (see below) can provide a listing of various series of aerial photographs and their repositories.

Historic photographs may be found in local historical societies, in regional repositories like the Historical Society of Cheshire County, and at the New Hampshire Historical Society. Many historic photographs have been published in a series of books on New Hampshire (and neighboring states) being issued by Arcadia Publishers, 1 Washington Center, Suite 304, Dover, N. H., 03820; Tel.: (603) 743-4266.

Family letters, financial accounts, diaries, photographs, if available. The best sources for such documents are local historical societies, the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, and the Historical Society of Cheshire County in Keene.

Contact people:

New Hampshire Historical Society, 30 Park Street, Concord, N. H., 03301; Tel.: (603) 228-6688: William N. Copeley, Reference Librarian

New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (State Historic Preservation Office), P. O. Box 2043 (19 Pillsbury Street), Concord, N. H., 03301; Tel.: (603) 271-3483: Elizabeth H. Muzzey, Director and State Historic Preservation Officer Linda Ray Wilson, Deputy Director
New Hampshire Division of Records Management and Archives (State Archives), 71 South Fruit Street, Concord, N. H., 03301; Tel.: (603) 271-2236:
Dr. Frank C. Mevers, Director and State Archivist
Brian Burford, Records Manager (Brian is also a land surveyor who could assist in searching the surveyors’ records on file there).

New Hampshire State Library, 20 Park Street, Concord, N. H., 03301; Tel. (603) 271-2144:
Donna V. Gilbreth, Supervisor, Reference & Information Services, Tel. (603) 271-3302.

New Hampshire Division of Vital Records Administration, located at the New Hampshire Division of Records Management and Archives, 71 South Fruit Street, Concord, N. H., 03301-2410; Tel.: (603) 271-4650.

Historical Society of Cheshire County, 246 Main Street, Keene, N. H., 03431; Tel.: (603) 352-1895:
Alan F. Rumrill, Director

Town Officers (see your local telephone directory or obtain a copy of the current edition of City and Town Officials of the State of New Hampshire, prepared by the Municipal Highways Bureau of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, Concord, N. H., 03301; Tel.: [603] 271-2107; or of the current New Hampshire Municipal Officials Directory, published by the New Hampshire Municipal Association, P.O. Box 617, Concord, N. H., 03301; Tel.: [603] 224-7447).

County Register of Deeds and Register of Probate (see your local telephone directory).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Researching towns and geographical locales:


**Researching buildings:**


Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site (Cornish, NH) Once the home of sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens, this beautiful home and garden is now open to the public. Comprehensive listing of historic sites in New Hampshire is available at https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g28950-Activities-c47-New_Hampshire.html. New sites are selected by the APS Historic Sites Committee. Awardees receive a plaque commemorating the site’s significance to physics, and a listing in the APS Historic Sites online directory. Nominations Closed. Historic Site nominations are now closed and will reopen next January. Review the nomination process. Congratulations, 2019 Awardees. Congratulations to our newest historic sites, the Mount Wilson Observatory and the Adler Planetarium! New nominations for historic sites opens on November 15, 2019. If you would like to nominate a new historic site, please review the guidelines. Contents. Interesting Facts. New Hampshire, one of the original 13 colonies, was the first state to have its own state constitution. Its spirit of independence is epitomized in the state motto—“Live Free or Die.” New Hampshire was the 9th state to ratify the U.S. Constitution—the final state needed to put the document into effect. It plays an important role in national elections, as it is the first state to hold national primaries, and its primary results are thought to influence those in the rest of the nation, giving rise to the saying “As New Hampshire goes, so goes the nation.” It is the site