

RESEARCH SOURCES FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORIC SITES
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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, and the New Hampshire State Library.

Family genealogies; check your local library or historical society, the New Hampshire Historical Society library and the State Library. Online genealogy websites may also be useful.

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 in Concord.

Statewide cemetery records, on file at New Hampshire Historical Society library.

Town vital records (births, marriages, deaths); available through town clerks or at the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services in Concord.

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 State Archives. 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 State 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. Many census records are also available online at www.census.gov.

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 State Archives in Concord.

Court records: either at the State 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 Walling county map series of c. 1858-1860;
2. 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, Fryeburg, ME.
3. 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 and State Papers*, 40 vols. (Concord: State of New Hampshire, 1867-1943).

The New Hampshire State 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*.

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 2-5/8 inches to a mile (1:24,000). Current editions of these maps are available in many bookstores and on-line from NH Fish and Game at www.wildnh.com/maps/topo.

The Dimond Library at the University of New Hampshire in Durham and the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord collect older editions of the USGS maps. The UNH collection may be accessed on the Web at <http://docs.unh.edu/nhtopos/nhtopos.htm>.

The State 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, and the New Hampshire State Archives. 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. Some towns may have access through their libraries to an online selection of Sanborn maps.

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 State 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 online at <http://www.usgs.gov/pubprod>. Bing maps and Google maps may also be helpful

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.

Repositories

New Hampshire Historical Society, 30 Park Street, Concord, N.H., 03301; 603-225-3381

New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (State Historic Preservation Office), 19 Pillsbury Street, Concord, N.H., 03301; 603-271-6568

New Hampshire Division of Records Management and Archives (State Archives), 71 South Fruit Street, Concord, N.H., 03301; 603-271-2236

New Hampshire State Library, 20 Park Street, Concord, N.H., 03301; 603-271-2144

Vital Records, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Hazen Drive, Concord, N.H., 03301; 603-271-4651. [The vital records are made available to the public through voluntary staffing by the Merrimack County Society of Genealogists. Attendants in the office will explain how to request birth, marriage, or death records.]

Historical Society of Cheshire County, 246 Main Street, Keene, N.H., 03431; 603-352-1895

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: 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; 603-224-7447.

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

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