

# Genealogical Resources for New Hampshire

- I. Vital Records
  - Official repository is NH Division of Vital Records Administration: births, deaths, marriages, divorces. They are indexed.
  - NHSL has some records for various towns, compiled by groups or individuals. Coverage varies
  - NHSL has a microfilmed Marriage Index for pre-1900 records. 100 reels. Filmed by the “Mormons” from records available at NH Vital Records
  - The NH Early Town Records on film contain some vital statistics and they are indexed by personal name
  - Each town maintains records, accessibility will vary
  - Each Superior Court has divorces granted by the court
  
- II. Census Records
  - NHSL has microfilm copies of 1790-1930 federal census records. Privacy laws
  - Census records can also be researched using our subscription to Ancestry
  - 1890 census destroyed by fire at National Archives
  
- III. Deeds and Probate
  - Not available at NHSL except for Probate records from 1623 to 1771, as published in the NH Provincial and State Papers (v. 31-39)
  - Archives has Provincial Deeds for 1623-1771 and the Probate Records for same time period
  - Each county maintains records of deeds and probate
  
- IV. Court Records
  - NHSL will have some records, such as opinions, from the NH Supreme Court
  - Superior Court (county) records are held at the particular Superior Court
  - Archives has records for the Inferior and Superior Courts for the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Also filmed by LDS
  
- V. Military Records
  - French & Indian War records published in the NH Adjutant General’s reports (1866 and 1868) and in the NH Provincial and State Papers
  - Revolutionary War records are in the NH Provincial and State Papers. Pension records are at National Archives but the NH Historical Society has 71 volume set of transcripts of the records for NH men
  - War of 1812 records are few. See Chandler Potter’s Military History of the State of NH for records
  - Civil War records are published in the NH Adjutant General’s Revised Register of the Soldiers & Sailors of NH in the War of the Rebellion. Original records are at the NH Archives. Many regiments published their regimental histories in the late 1800s. We have a collection
  - WWI and WWII records can be found on Ancestry. There may also be some at the NH Adjutant General’s office
  
- VI. Cemetery Records
  - NHSL has various collections of cemetery inscriptions compiled by individuals and groups for various towns or churches
  - The NH Historical Society has a large collection of inscriptions copied from gravestones
  - Try a particular town or church for records

- VII. Church Records
- NHSL has some. Many churches have deposited their early records at the NH Historical Society. And others are probably still held by the church, their state organization, or perhaps a local historical society
  - WPA era projects resulted in compilations of locations of church records in NH, such as the Guide to Church Vital Statistics in NH (@ NHSL and filmed by LDS).
  - Roman Catholic record abstracts at the American Canadian Genealogical Society in Manchester
  - Various records were transcribed in the New Hampshire Genealogical Record and the New England Historical and Genealogical Register
- VIII. Change of Name
- The NH General Court's annual session laws published legal name changes through 1946.
  - Generally, each county courthouse will have those records
  - Vital Records has a name index from 1947 and Archives has a name index for 1796-1933
- IX. Town Records
- NHSL has a unique collection of early town records on microfilm, along with a comprehensive index by individual names. Coverage is generally from the town beginnings through the 1830's.
  - We also have a number of microfilmed miscellaneous town records generally from 1835 to 1900. These are not indexed.
  - NHSL has an extensive collection of annual town reports for all NH towns. They mostly date back to the late 1800's (some earlier) and continue to the present. Most towns have published an annual list of births, marriages, and deaths in the reports
  - We have a microfilmed collection of "warnings out" which were letters sent by a town to indigents telling them to return to their town of origin. The originals are at Archives
  - All towns maintain records on town meetings, tax inventories. Condition and accessibility will vary
  - Many towns deposited their original early records with Archives. Some are at the State Library
  - Original Town Charters recorded by the Provincial Government or Masonian Proprietors are at Archives. They are reproduced in the NH Provincial and State Papers.
- X. Maps
- County wall maps circa 1858 (also on CD)
  - 1892 *Town and City Atlas* by D. H. Hurd
  - Sanborn fire insurance maps for selected towns
- XI. Publications
- NHSL has a large collection of published genealogical and history resources. Publications range from "how to" guides to more specialized resources
  - Older compilations like Ezra Stearns' *Genealogical & Family History of the State of New Hampshire*; *The Pioneers of Maine and New Hampshire 1623 to 1660* by Charles Pope; *A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England* by James Savage
  - City directories for several NH towns from the earliest (1800's) to present. Also some Boston and New England business directories
  - Telephone directories for all NH towns from the 1950's to present
  - Extensive collection of NH town and county histories. Bill Copeley's *Names in NH Town Histories* is a helpful guide to locating family histories within town histories
  - Many town histories for other New England states
  - Several hundred published family histories. DAR Lineage Book
  - New England Historical & Genealogical Register for 1847 to date

- American-Genealogical & Biographical Index (indexes many who lived in US from 1607 to 1800s. Indexes census & military records, genealogies & *Boston Transcript*)
- *Boston Transcript*: microfiche collection of newspaper genealogy columns from 1896-1941
- Collected vital records of Massachusetts towns to 1850
- Various genealogical magazines
- Elmer M. Hunt's *New Hampshire Town Names* giving a brief history of the origin of each town and its name
- *Directory of Historical Societies and Other Historical Resources* (2008) with updates on the website of the Association of Historical Societies of New Hampshire ([www.historicalsocietiesnh.org](http://www.historicalsocietiesnh.org))
- *Granite Monthly* (NH magazine published from 1877-1930, with an index) has many historical articles about NH people and towns
- *NH Loyalists*: transcript of records regarding loyalists ca. 1783-1790 as recorded in the Public Record Office in London

#### XII. Newspapers

- Extensive collection of New Hampshire weekly and daily newspapers on microfilm. Some dating back to the 1700s. Up to date with currently published newspapers
- NH Historical Society also has a large collection of pre-1900 newspapers

#### XIII. New Hampshire History Room

- Large and historic room that originally housed the NH Supreme Court
- Most resources kept there
- Use of 4 microfilm machines that make copies (10 cents/page)
- 1 photocopier (10 cents/page)
- Sign up for use of dedicated computer to use Ancestry or Heritage Quest
- Can contact us for assistance. Might be able to do some limited research by reference librarians

#### XIV. Some Useful Websites

- [Dar.org](http://Dar.org) Some online resources available at the Daughters of the American Revolution website regarding Revolutionary War soldiers and descendants
- [Americanancestors.org](http://Americanancestors.org) New England Historic Genealogical Society has various research databases, especially for subscribers. Several how-to articles
- [Wardepartmentpapers.org](http://Wardepartmentpapers.org) Online papers of the US War Dept. from 1784-1800 (for instance, a payment to Capt. Daniel Tilton of Exeter of \$87.48 for subsistence in 1795)
- [Higginsonbooks.com](http://Higginsonbooks.com) company specializing in reprinting town histories, genealogies, etc.

#### XV. Your Local History Collection

- **PURPOSE:** to preserve source information on the history of your local community and make the material available to library patrons and researchers
- **RATIONALE:** if the library or historical society does not collect such materials, who will?
- **ADVANTAGES:** new patrons; favorable publicity; additions to your collection; preservation of the community's historical heritage
- **QUESTIONS TO ASK:** what is the cost of setting up a local history collection? Who are potential users? What are the likely staffing needs? Who has the skill to maintain and administer the collection? What kinds of materials are most likely to be added to the collection? What is the focus of the collection? What impact will the service have on other library operations?
- **CORE MATERIALS**

- Town histories – look for reprints from companies like Higginson that can be handled easily. Histories of neighboring towns may include information about your town and early inhabitants
- County histories & gazetteers – histories of the towns and biographies of important residents
- Town directories – there may have been commercially published directories for several years. Great information on residents and businesses at various times
- Telephone directories- keep the old ones. Decades later the information on residents and businesses can be useful
- Annual town reports – if they contain annual vital statistics, all the better. The state and town records may be difficult to access and privacy laws come in to play at the state level for recent decades. Also have information on property taxes, etc.
- Photograph collections – at the library or possibly historical society
- Local authors and literature
- Local newspaper – have the current issues and try to keep the older ones. Microfilm may be an option if you have the equipment. An obituary index if you have the time to create and maintain is helpful
- Cemetery records – if compiled or perhaps the local cemetery associations may share copies of their records
- Town records – if the town is having their early records microfilmed or digitized, get copies
- Maps & atlases: the region, town, etc. “birdseye view” for the town, maybe Sanborn insurance maps, Hurd’s 1892 Town and City Atlas
- Ephemera – folders, postcards, brochures of local attractions, hotels, etc., can be useful to researchers down the road
- Records of local companies, organizations, churches, etc.
- School yearbooks, local college directories
- Personal papers like diaries, letters, account books, memoirs,
- Scrapbooks

Remember – current records/publications will become of historical interest as time passes