



## NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

State of New Hampshire, Department of Cultural Resources

19 Pillsbury Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Concord NH 03301-3570

Voice/ TDD ACCESS: RELAY NH 1-800-735-2964

<http://www.nh.gov/mhdhr>

603-271-3483

603-271-3558

FAX 603-271-3433

[preservation@dcr.nh.gov](mailto:preservation@dcr.nh.gov)

## RESEARCH SOURCES FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORIC SITES

JAMES L. GARVIN

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:

J. Chace, Jr. *Map of Strafford County, New Hampshire*. Philadelphia, 1856

----- *Map of Rockingham County, New Hampshire*. Philadelphia, 1857.

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

L. Fagan. *Map of Cheshire County, New Hampshire*. Philadelphia, 1858.

H. F. Walling. *Map of Merrimack County, New Hampshire*. New York, 1858.

J. Chace, Jr. *Map of Rockingham County, New Hampshire*. Philadelphia, 1859.

E. M. Woodford, *Map of Belknap County, New Hampshire*. Philadelphia, 1859.

H. F. Walling. *Topographical Map of Grafton County, New Hampshire*. New York: 1860.

----- *Topographical Map of the County of Sullivan, New Hampshire*. New York: 1860.

E. M. Woodford. *Map of Belknap County, New Hampshire*. Philadelphia, 1860.

H. F. Walling. *Topographical Map of Carroll County, New Hampshire, from Actual Surveys*. New York, 1861.

----- *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);
3. Sanford and Everts. *Atlas of Strafford County, New Hampshire, from Actual Surveys*. 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 and State Papers*, 40 vols. (Concord: State of New Hampshire, 1867-1943).

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 2<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 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:

Cobb, David A. *New Hampshire Maps to 1900. An Annotated Checklist.* Concord: New Hampshire Historical Society, 1981.

Committee for a New England Bibliography. *New Hampshire: A Bibliography of Its History*, ed. John D. Haskell, Jr. and T. D. Seymour Bassett. Boston: G. K. Hall & Co., 1979. Lists all known published sources for each New Hampshire town.

----- *New England: Additions to the Six State Bibliographies*, ed. Roger Parks. Hanover, N. H.: University Press of New England, 1989. Additional sources.

----- *Bibliographies of New England History: Further Additions, to 1994*, ed. Roger Parks. Hanover, N. H.: University Press of New England, 1995. Additional sources.

Cronon, William. *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England.* New York: Hill & Wang, 1983.

New Hampshire, State of. *New Hampshire Provincial and State Papers*, 40 vols. Concord: State of New Hampshire, 1867-1943.

Russell, Howard S. *A Long, Deep Furrow: Three Centuries of Farming in New England* (abridged edition). Hanover, N. H.: University Press of New England, 1982.

Ruell, David. *The Bird's Eye Views of New Hampshire: 1875-1899*. Concord: New Hampshire Historical Society, 1983. Also available in many libraries as a special issue of the quarterly journal *Historical New Hampshire* (Vol. XXXVIII, No. 1, Spring 1983).

Wilson, Harold Fisher. *The Hill Country of Northern New England: Its Social and Economic History, 1790-1830*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1936.

### **Researching buildings:**

Blumenson, John J.-G. *Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945*. Nashville, Tenn.: American Association for State and Local History, 1977.

Fitch, James Marston. *American Building: The Environmental Forces That Shape It*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1972.

-----, *American Building: The Historical Forces That Shaped It*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: Schocken Books, 1973.

Garvin, James L. *A Building History of Northern New England*. Hanover, N. H.: University Press of New England, 2001.

Gowans, Alan. *Styles and Types of North American Architecture: Social Function and Cultural Expression*. New York: HarperCollins, 1992.

Handlin, David P. *The American Home, Architecture, and Society, 1815-1915*. Boston: Little, Brown & Company, 1979.

Howe, Barbara J., Dolores A. Fleming, Emery L. Kemp, and Ruth Ann Overbeck. *Houses and Homes: Exploring Their History*. Nashville, Tennessee: American Association for State and Local History, 1987.

Hubka, Thomas. *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of New England*. Hanover, N. H.: University Press of New England, 1984.

Jakle, John A., Robert W. Bastian, and Douglas K. Meyer. *Common Houses in America's Small Towns: The Atlantic Seaboard to the Mississippi Valley*. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1989.

Light, Sally. *House Histories: A Guide to Tracing the Genealogy of Your Home*. Spencertown, N. Y.: Golden Hill Press, 1989.

McAlester, Virginia, and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. Nashville, Tenn.: American Association for State and Local History, 1986.

Morgan, William. *The Abrams Guide to American House Styles*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 2004.