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## **NEW HAMPSHIRE ANCESTORS: ONLINE AND ON-SITE**

This lecture assumes that basic genealogical research has been completed, and then guides the researcher through some lesser-known sources and repositories.

### **MINING THE WEB . . .**

#### **HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

Genealogical research is most successful when based on a strong historical foundation, often leading to records in neighboring states and foreign countries.

##### *Regional History*

- [NewEnglandHistory.info](http://NewEnglandHistory.info) –concise regional history with good links for specific topics
- [Books.google.com](http://Books.google.com) – numerous digital books with detailed regional histories

##### *State History*

- New Hampshire state website ([www.nh.gov/nhinfo/history.html](http://www.nh.gov/nhinfo/history.html) and [www.nh.gov/nhdhr/markers/brief.html](http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/markers/brief.html)) – concise state histories, with clues for location of earliest records.
- [www.shgresources.com/nh/timeline/](http://www.shgresources.com/nh/timeline/) – timeline of New Hampshire history
- [www.nh.gov/nhinfo/guide.html](http://www.nh.gov/nhinfo/guide.html) – excellent summary and guide to early records

##### *Local History*

- [www.nh.gov/municipal/](http://www.nh.gov/municipal/) – guide to New Hampshire towns and their websites
- [www.sos.nh.gov/archives/publcoll.html](http://www.sos.nh.gov/archives/publcoll.html) – New Hampshire State Papers
- [www.books.google.com](http://www.books.google.com) – numerous town and county histories

#### **BEYOND MILITARY SERVICE RECORDS**

##### *Revolutionary War*

Military pension records can be a genealogical goldmine, containing marriage records, identification of children and other valuable information.

- [www.heritagequestonline.com](http://www.heritagequestonline.com) – **Selected papers** from the **Revolutionary War Pension Files** can be accessed from home with a password supplied by your local librarian.
- [www.footnote.com](http://www.footnote.com) – **Complete pension files** are available and fully indexed.
- [memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwsp.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwsp.html) – **American State Papers** at the Library of Congress contain Congressional documents (1789-1838), including pension disputes.
- [memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwss.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwss.html) -- **U.S. Congressional Serial Set**, also at the Library of Congress site, contains Senate and House documents and reports beginning in 1817, including the appeals of private citizens to their Congressional representatives.

### *Civil War*

No Civil War research is complete without consulting the 128-volume set of *The War of the Rebellion: a Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. It includes eyewitness accounts of officers who fought the battles. Although enlisted men are seldom mentioned, the researcher can use several techniques to glean in-depth accounts of the experiences of their ancestor soldier. The volumes are online and searchable, along with the atlas containing detailed land-ownership maps of the battlefields. *The Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies* are at <http://digital.library.cornell.edu/m/moawar/ofre.html>.

#### *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*

- Cornell University Library -- <http://digital.library.cornell.edu/m/moawar/waro.html>  
(Use the “Proximity Search” and limit search to “Official Records” in the title. In the following frame, press “Results Details.”)
- Ohio State University -- <http://ehistory.osu.edu/osu/sources/records/>

#### *Companion Atlas*

- Ohio State University --- <http://ehistory.osu.edu/osu/sources/records/atlas.cfm>

#### *Search Techniques*

Searching the *Official Records* can be tricky. You must first obtain the soldier's compiled military service record or gather his service information from other sources (see [www.sos.nh.gov/archives/civil.html](http://www.sos.nh.gov/archives/civil.html) for sources available at the N. H. State Archives) to identify the officers who commanded the unit **and** the dates of your ancestor's service. Then, proceed to the search page of the *Official Records* and begin your search using:

- Regiment and Company
- Officers' names (with spelling variations)
- Location (including towns, hospitals and prisons)
- Dates

***Be sure that the dates found in the records are consistent with your ancestor's service!***

### **VITAL RECORDS**

FamilySearch (<https://beta.familysearch.org/>) has digitized and/or transcribed New Hampshire births to 1904, marriages to 1920 and deaths to 1949. These are the state records (some actual images) that were copied from the original town records in the early 1900s.

## MISCELLANEOUS SOURCES

### *New Hampshire Land Records Online (www.nhdeeds.com)*

- Belknap Co. – 1955-present
- Carroll Co. – None
- Cheshire Co. – 1975-present
- Coos Co. – 1981-present
- Grafton Co. – 1960-present
- Hillsborough Co. – 1966-present
- Merrimack Co. – Subscription only; \$25 per month
- **Rockingham Co. – 1643-present**
- Strafford Co. – 1921-present
- Sullivan Co. – Indexes 1827-1965; images 1965-present

### *National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collection (NUCMC)*

- Indexes manuscript collections from libraries throughout the country
- Available at <http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/>

### *Periodical Source Index (PERSI)*

- Indexes articles of genealogical and historical interest
- Available at [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) and [www.heritagequestonline.com](http://www.heritagequestonline.com)

### *Google Books—A Goldmine!*

- <http://books.google.com/>
- Laws of New Hampshire
  - 1679-1702
  - 1759
  - 1801-1811
  - 1805
  - 1815-1824
  - 1830
  - 1901
- Regional, state and local histories
- Church histories

### *Research Guide*

The Family History Library has an excellent guide to New Hampshire research at [www.familysearch.org/eng/search/RG/images/31066\\_New\\_Hampshire.pdf](http://www.familysearch.org/eng/search/RG/images/31066_New_Hampshire.pdf). Other guides may be obtained by going to [http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHL/frameset\\_library.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHL/frameset_library.asp) and clicking on “Research Helps.”

### *Cyndi's List*

Cyndi's List ([www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com)) is an in-depth index to genealogy websites, and a wonderful starting point for your research.

## **. . . THE ON-SITE VISIT**

### **NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE ARCHIVES, CONCORD** (<http://www.sos.nh.gov/archives/>)

Many researchers visit the state vital records office, but fail to take advantage of the multitude of original sources available on the "other side" of the combined research room. Before your visit, explore the online "Guide to Archives" and the outline "Researching Your Family at the New Hampshire State Archives." Underutilized sources include:

- Original documents transcribed in New Hampshire State Papers
- Court records (card index)
- Deeds (card index)
- Prison records
- Military records
- Maps
- Warnings Out

### **NEW HAMPSHIRE LAW LIBRARY, CONCORD** (<http://www.courts.state.nh.us/lawlibrary/index.htm>)

The library houses Supreme Court case files and briefs from 1849-1970, with a card index.

Computer sources include:

- Lexis/Westlaw (legal research databases)
- Hein Online (including English Reports, court cases from 1220-1867)
- Newly discovered Justice of the Peace records from 1761 (currently being indexed and summarized in a database)

### **NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, CONCORD** (<http://nhhistory.org/>)

The New Hampshire Historical Society has one of the best manuscript collections in the region. Among their many underutilized sources are:

- Church records
- Diaries
- Account books
- Family papers
- Photographs
- Gravestone inscriptions

### **AMERICAN CANADIAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, MANCHESTER** ([www.acgs.org](http://www.acgs.org))

There was significant movement between New Hampshire and Canada, and Canadian records should not be overlooked. Records at the ACGS include:

- Vital records for New Hampshire's surrounding states
- Drouin Collection
- Canadian notarial records
- Programme de Recherche en Demographic Historique (PDRH)
- Family files/published genealogies
- Family Association files

### **RAUNER SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY, DARTMOUTH COLLEGE** ([dartmouth.edu/~library/rauner/](http://dartmouth.edu/~library/rauner/))

Much of this huge manuscript collection is devoted to Hanover and surrounding communities; however, it contains items from other parts of the state. The collection includes:

- Papers of Dartmouth alumni and historical figures who lived in New Hampshire

- Diaries and account books

**DIMOND LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DURHAM** (<http://www.library.unh.edu/>)

The library has an extensive collection of rare books and manuscripts relevant to New Hampshire and New England genealogy and local history. Among their sources are:

- Papers of the Lamson Library of the Piscataqua Pioneers
- Records of the New Hampshire Old Graveyard Association
- Papers of the Molly Reed Chapter of the DAR
- Papers from Fort Constitution, 1840s to 1860s
- Numerous diaries and family papers

**PORTSMOUTH ATHENAEUM** (<http://www.portsmouthathenaeum.org/>)

The Athenaeum library offers a superb manuscript collection relating to individuals and families that lived along the Seacoast. Among the numerous sources offered are:

- Church records
- Papers of the Portsmouth Female Asylum
- Diaries (esp. Josiah P. Gilson Diaries), correspondence and personal papers

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CHESHIRE COUNTY** (<http://www.hscnh.org/>)

The Wright Room Research Library is home to a sizeable collection, including:

- Diaries
- Family papers
- Photographs
- Rev. Aaron Hall Papers, 1773-1814
- Beveridge Collection
- Cheshire County Union Catalog

**TOWN OFFICIALS**

*Cemetery Trustees*

- Maps of local cemeteries
- Directory of all cemeteries in the town
- Index of gravestones, as required by law

*Tax Collectors*

- Early tax records
- School apportionments

*Town Clerks*

- Land grants
- Manumissions
- Poor records
- Inquests

## Recommended Readings

### Publications:

- Benton, Josiah and Henry Benton. *Warning Out in New England*. 1911. Reprint, Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 1992.
- Bouvier, John. *A Law Dictionary Adapted to the Constitution and Laws of the United States of America and of the Several States of the American Union*. Revised 6<sup>th</sup> ed.; online at <http://www.constitution.org/bouv/bouvier.htm>.
- Chipman, Scott Lee. *New England Vital Records from the Exeter News-Letter*. 5 vols. Camden, Me.: Picton Press, 1993+.
- Copeley, William. *Index to Genealogies in New Hampshire Town Histories*. Concord: New Hampshire Historical Society, 1988.
- Knudsen, Milli S. *Hard Time in Concord, New Hampshire: The Crimes, the Victims, and the Lives of the State Prison Inmates, 1812-1883*. Westminster, Md.: Heritage Books, Inc., 2009.
- Lainhart, Ann Smith. *Digging for Genealogical Treasure in New England Town Records*. Boston: New England Historical Genealogical Society, 1996.
- Melnyk, Marcia D., ed. *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research*. 4th ed. Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1999.
- Rapaport, Diane. *New England Court Records: A Research Guide for Genealogists and Historians*. Burlington, Mass.: Quill Pen Press, 2006.
- Rose, Christine. *Courthouse Research for Family Historians: Your Guide to Genealogical Treasures*. San Jose, Calif.: CR Publications, 2004.
- Szucs, Loretto Dennis and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking, eds. *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy*, 3rd ed. Provo, Utah: Ancestry, 2006.
- Sperry, Kip. *New England Genealogical Research: A Guide to Sources*. Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 1988.