



NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRSTS

New Hampshire is a land of many firsts: From the first citizen to become U.S. Attorney General (Samuel Shelburne in 1789), to the first American in space (Alan Shepard in 1961).

- The first-in-the-nation Presidential Primary election is held in the Granite State every four years. Until the 1992 elections, no candidate had ever won the Presidency without first winning in New Hampshire.
- In 1775, New Hampshire became the first state to declare its independence from England.
- In 1793, Samuel Morey of Orford invented the internal combustion engine and built the first steamship in the United States.
- The first American in space, Alan Shepard, was born in Derry, New Hampshire. His historic flight was made in 1961.
- The first private citizen in the history of space flight was Christa McAuliffe, a Concord schoolteacher. After her death in the Challenger Space Shuttle disaster, a planetarium was built in her honor in Concord.
- Wolfeboro became the first summer resort in America, when the summer home of Royal Governor John Wentworth was built in 1767.
- In 1963 New Hampshire adopted the first legal state lottery in the United States.
- The first commissioned naval officer in the United States was Captain Hopley Yeaton of New Castle, who was commissioned in 1791.
- John Langdon of New Hampshire was named the first President Pro-Tem of the U.S. Senate in 1789.
- Samuel Shelburne of Portsmouth was the first Attorney General of the United States. He was named to the post in 1789.
- The first potato was planted north of the Rio Grande at Londonderry Common Field, in 1719.
- Levi Hutchins of Concord invented the first alarm clock in 1787. It only rang at 4 a.m., the time he got up.

- The world record for the highest ground wind speed of 372 km per hour (231 miles per hour) was recorded on Mt. Washington on April 12, 1934.
- The first patent for an artificial leg belonged to Benjamin Palmer of Meredith, who patented the Palmer Leg in 1846.
- Thomas Goodall of Troy designed the first horse blanket in 1850.
- The Nansen Ski Club, the first ski club in the country, was formed in 1882 in Berlin.
- The first fire alarm system using the telegraph was designed by Moses Farmer of Boscawen in 1847.
- Isaac Orr of Bedford made the first airtight wood stove.
- The New Hampshire's Legislature was the first to adopt a 10-hour work day in 1847.
- La Caisse Populaire, St. Mary's Bank in Manchester, established the first credit union in the United States in 1908.
- The first intercollegiate boat race in North America happened on Lake Winnepesaukee in August 1853, when Harvard beat Yale.