



50 NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRSTS

1. The first-in-the-nation Presidential Primary election is held in the Granite State every four years.
2. In 1690, the British Government contracted local ship builders in Portsmouth, NH, to construct the HMS Falkland, a 637-ton, 54-gun frigate, which was added to the Royal Navy, March 2, 1695, making it the first warship built in North America.
3. The first potato was planted north of the Rio Grande at Londonderry Common Field, in 1719.
4. Wolfeboro became the first summer resort in America, when the summer home of Royal Governor John Wentworth was built in 1767.
5. On January 5, 1776, New Hampshire became the first state to declare its independence from England.
6. Levi Hutchins of Concord invented the first alarm clock in 1787. It only rang at 4 a.m., the time he got up.
7. John Langdon of New Hampshire was named the first President Pro-Tem of the U.S. Senate in 1789.
8. Samuel Shelburne of Portsmouth was the first Attorney General of the United States. He, too, was named to his post in 1789.
9. The first commissioned naval officer in the United States was Captain Hopley Yeaton of New Castle, who was commissioned in 1791.
10. In 1793, Samuel Morey of Orford invented the internal combustion engine and built the first steamship in the United States.
11. The Temple Town Band is the first organized town band in the U.S. Its first recorded performance was in 1800 for George Washington.

12. On June 12, 1800, Fernald's Island in the Piscataqua River became the first government-sanctioned US Navy shipyard.
13. Started in 1822, Dublin's Juvenile Library was the first free public library.
14. The first Concord Coach was built in Concord in 1827. It was celebrated world-wide for its leather belt suspension described by Mark Twain as "an imposing cradle on wheels".
15. In 1828, the first women's strike in the nation took place at Dover's Cocheco Mills.
16. In 1845, the machine shop of John H. Gage, Nashua, was the first shop devoted to the manufacture of machinists' tools.
17. The first patent for an artificial leg belongs to Benjamin Palmer of Meredith, who patented the Palmer Leg in 1846.
18. The first fire alarm system using the telegraph was designed by Moses Farmer of Boscawen in 1847.
19. The New Hampshire Legislature was the first to adopt a 10-hour work day in 1847.
20. Thomas Goodall of Troy designed the first horse blanket in 1850.
21. The first intercollegiate boat race in North America happened on Lake Winnepesaukee in August 1853, when Harvard beat Yale.
22. On October 12, 1853, Amos Tuck called a meeting in Exeter of four political parties opposed to the Democratic Party and proposed the name Republican, thus calling to order the first meeting of the Republican party.
23. "Our Nig", written by Milford resident Harriet Wilson in 1859, stands today as the first known novel published by a black woman in English and the earliest novel published in the United States by an African American.
24. In 1863, President Lincoln established the first national Thanksgiving Day, inspired by letters from Sarah Josepha Hale of Newport. Ms. Hale is also recognized as the first women's magazine editor in the US having edited "Ladies Magazine (1828-36)" and "Godey's Lady's Book (1837-77)".
25. On August 29, 1866, Sylvester Marsh demonstrated the first mountain-climbing "cog" railway on Mount Washington.
26. Finished on June 27, 1874, the first trans-Atlantic telecommunications cable between Europe and America stretched from Balinskelligs Bay, Ireland, to Rye Beach, New Hampshire
27. The Nansen Ski Club, the first ski club in the country, was formed in 1882 in Berlin.

28. In 1901, Courtland Freese moved the Globe Manufacturing Company to Pittsfield and began making & selling the country's first "firefighter suit". The company is still owned & operated by the Freese family, fourth generation, and is the oldest and largest manufacturer of firefighting suits in the world.
29. The Brown Paper Company of Berlin was the first company to use the concept of "sustained yield" in forestry management, and in 1900, developed one of the first corporate research facilities in the United States.
30. On February 6, 1901, a group of nine conservationists founded the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, the first forest conservation advocacy group in the US.
31. La Caisse Populaire, St. Mary's Bank in Manchester, established the first credit union in the United States in 1908 to help mill workers save and borrow money.
32. The Meriden Bird Club was the first bird club in America. It was founded in 1911 by Ernest Harold Baynes, who performed in "Sanctuary", a play which toured to 120 towns and inspired the formation of over two thirds of America's bird clubs.
33. The L-8, the first submarine built in a U.S. Navy Yard, was completed in 1917 by the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard at a cost well below the contract price, a standard still met at the Shipyard today.
34. The first "snow-train", a Boston & Maine Railroad train sponsored by the Appalachian Mountain Club, left Boston on January 11, 1931 with 197 passengers headed for Warner, NH.
35. In 1932, Otto Schniebs of Hanover and John McCrillis of Newport made the first American ski film, which premiered December 1932 at the National Ski Association Meeting in Chicago.
36. The first Crafts Fair in the nation was held at Crawford Notch in 1934 by the League of NH Craftsmen. Today, the Crafts Fair is held at Mount Sunapee State Park and stands as the oldest, continuously held Crafts Fair in the country.
37. The first passenger aerial tramway in North America was installed in 1938 at Cannon Mountain in NH's Franconia Notch.
38. George Morton of Bartlett and his son Parker designed and built the first "skimobile", inspired by the San Francisco cable cars. On December 27, 1938, the Mt. Cranmore Skimobile pulled its first cars halfway up the mountain.
39. "Press & seal" was first recognized in Berlin, NH, home of Earl Tupper, inventor & founder of Tupperware Plastics Company in 1938.

40. In July 1944, the Bretton Woods Agreement, the first fully-negotiated system intended to govern monetary relations among independent nation-states, was signed at the Mount Washington Hotel.
41. In March, 1946, Brooklyn Dodgers president Branch Rickey assigned Roy Campanella and Don Newcombe to the Nashua Dodgers, a new farm team, making Nashua, NH the first modern city to host an integrated professional baseball team.
42. In 1957, Manchester became the first US Corporate headquarters and manufacturer of a new product known as Velcro.
43. On May 5, 1961, Alan B. Shepard Jr. of Derry rode a Mercury spacecraft and became the first American in space.
44. In 1963 New Hampshire adopted the first legal state lottery in the United States.
45. In 1964, John Kemeny and Thomas Kurtz invented BASIC (The Beginner's All-Purpose Symbolic Instruction Code) at Dartmouth College in Hanover.
46. In 1966, Ralph Baer of Sanders Associates, Inc., Nashua, recruited engineers and developed the first home video game.
47. Christa McAuliffe of Concord became the first private citizen selected to venture into space. She perished with her six space shuttle Challenger crewmates in January 28, 1986.
48. In 1992, Dean Kamen of FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) founded the first national robotics competition in Manchester.
49. GreatBay Aquaculture, founded in 1996 in Portsmouth, is the first commercial fish farm in the US dedicated to the culture of summer flounder.
50. From 1998 through 2002, Public Service of New Hampshire became the first electric utility in the nation to study the use of sheep for vegetation management under power lines.