



## **My Drift**

**Title: New England**

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I have stated that I plan to write something about all 50 states. Well, I have been slacking lately since my last article about a U.S. state or city was last year when I wrote about Dearborn, Michigan. I plan to catch up a bit with this article since there are six states that makes up New England. The only New England state I have written about so far is New Hampshire back in July 2013.

Here is a quick recap of New England states:

NAME	POPULATION	AREA	CAPITAL
Maine	1,400,000	35,384 sq. miles	Augusta
Vermont	627,000	9,616 sq. miles	Montpelier
New Hampshire	1,360,000	9,350 sq. miles	Concord
Massachusetts	7,000,000	10,565 sq. miles	Boston
Connecticut	3,600,000	5,543 sq. miles	Harford
Rhode Island	1,100,000	1,212 sq. miles	Providence
Total	15,100,000	72,000 sq. miles	



## A little America and New England History

We all know that Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492. Right?

On August 3, 1492, Columbus set sail from Spain to find an all-water route to Asia. On October 12, more than two months later, Columbus landed on an island in the Bahamas that he called San Salvador; the natives called it Guanahani.



**But, was he first to discover America or even North America? I don't think so.**

**I think the Vikings discovered America way before Columbus. The Vikings' early expeditions to North America are well documented and accepted as historical fact by most scholars. Around the year 1000 A.D., the Viking explorer Leif Erikson, son of Erik the Red, sailed to a place he called "Vinland," in what is now the Canadian province of Newfoundland. Erikson and his crew didn't stay long — only a few years — before returning to Greenland. Relations with native North Americans were described as hostile.**

**This much had long been known from the Icelandic sagas. But until 1960, there was no proof of Erikson's American sojourns. That year, Norwegian explorer Helge Ingstad and his wife, archaeologist Anne Stine Ingstad, unearthed an ancient Norse settlement. During the next seven years, the Ingstads and an international team of archaeologists exposed the foundations of eight separate buildings. In 1969, Congress designated Oct. 9 as "Leif Erikson Day."**

**Besides that, there were a few million North American Natives (Indians) living in what is now America. Where did they come from?**

**I plan to write an article about this subject (first to discover America) in the future.**



**The Mayflower**

**The English Pilgrims were Puritans fleeing religious persecution in England who established Plymouth Colony (in what is now Massachusetts) in 1620, the first colony in New England and second in America. The first colony was founded at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607.**

**The Mayflower was an English ship that transported the first English Puritans, known today as the Pilgrims, from Plymouth, England, to the New World in 1620. There were 102 passengers, and a crew of about 30. The ship has become a cultural icon in the history of the United States. The Pilgrims signed the Mayflower Compact prior to leaving the ship and establishing Plymouth Colony, a document which established a rudimentary form of democracy with each member contributing to the welfare of the community. There was a second ship also named the Mayflower, which made the London to Plymouth, Massachusetts, voyage several times.**



**English Puritans (known as the Pilgrims)**

**New England is the oldest clearly defined region of the United States, and it predates the American Revolution by more than 150 years. A large influx of Puritans populated the greater region during the Puritan migration to New England (1620–1640), largely in the Boston and Salem area. Farming, fishing, and lumbering prospered, as did whaling and sea trading.**

### **French and Indian Wars**

**Relationships between colonists and local Indian tribes alternated between peace and armed skirmishes, the bloodiest of which was the Pequot War in 1637 which resulted in the Mystic massacre. On May 19, 1643, the colonies of Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth, New Haven, and Connecticut joined together in a loose compact called the New England**



**Confederation.** This confederation was designed largely to coordinate mutual defense, and it gained some importance during King Philip's War which pitted the colonists and their Indian allies against a widespread Indian uprising from June 1675 through April 1678, resulting in killings and massacres on both sides. About 3,000 Indians and 1,000 colonists were killed.

During the next 74 years, there were six colonial wars that took place primarily between New England and New France, during which New England was allied with the Iroquois Confederacy and New France was allied with the Wabanaki Confederacy. Mainland Nova Scotia came under the control of New England after the Siege of Port Royal (1710), but both New Brunswick and most of Maine remained contested territory between New England and New France. The British eventually defeated the French in 1763, opening the Connecticut River Valley for British settlement into western New Hampshire and Vermont.

Do you remember reading or hearing about the Salem Witch Trials? These were a series of hearings and prosecutions of people accused of witchcraft in colonial Massachusetts between February 1692 and May 1693. More than 200 people were accused, 19 of whom were found guilty and executed by hanging (14 women and 5 men). One other man, Giles Corey, was crushed to death for refusing to plead, and at least five people died in jail. It was the deadliest witch hunt in American history.



Events in the New England region helped launch and sustain the American Revolution, and the American War of Independence began when fighting erupted between British troops and Massachusetts militia in the Battles of Lexington and Concord. The region later became a stronghold of the conservative Federalist Party.

By the 1840s, the region was the center of the American anti-slavery movement and was the leading force in American literature and higher education. It was at the center of the Industrial Revolution in the United States, with many textile mills and machine shops operating by 1830. New England was the manufacturing center of the entire United States for much of the nineteenth century, and it played an important role during and after the American Civil War as a fervent intellectual, political, and cultural promoter of abolitionism and civil rights.

**Manufacturing in the United States began to shift south and west during the 20th century, and New England experienced a sustained period of economic decline and deindustrialization. By the beginning of the 21st century, however, the region had become a center for technology, weapons manufacturing, scientific research, and financial services.**

**Okay, that was a brief history of New England in general. Now, let's take a closer look at each of the states.**

### **Massachusetts**

**The state is named after the Massachusett Indian tribe, which once inhabited the area, and is one of the original thirteen states. Massachusetts became the sixth U.S. state on February 6, 1788. The capital of Massachusetts is Boston (population 675,000), which is also the most populous city in New England. Over 80% of Massachusetts's population lives in the Greater Boston metropolitan area (population 4,600,000), a region influential upon American history, academia, and industry. Modern Massachusetts is a global leader in biotechnology, engineering, higher education, finance, and maritime trade.**

**Massachusetts is about 83% White, 9% African American, 6% Asian American, and 3% from other races. Hispanics and Latinos of any race made up 11% of the population. As late as 1795, the population of Massachusetts was nearly 95% of English ancestry. Now (in 2019), the largest ancestry group in Massachusetts are the Irish with 22.5% of the population.**

**Religion - Massachusetts was founded and settled by Brownist Puritans in 1620 and soon after by other groups of Separatists/Dissenters, Nonconformists and Independents from 17th century England. Today, Christians make up 57% of the state's population, with Protestants making up 21% of them. Roman Catholics make up 34% and is predominate because of massive immigration from primarily Catholic countries and regions – chiefly Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal, and Latin America.**

**Education - Massachusetts's overall educational system is currently ranked the top among all fifty U.S. states by U.S. News & World Report. Harvard University and MIT are both widely regarded as in the top handful of universities worldwide for academic research.**

**Sports - Massachusetts is home to four major league professional sports teams: seventeen-time NBA Champions Boston Celtics, nine-time World Series winners**

**Boston Red Sox, six-time Stanley Cup winners Boston Bruins, and six-time Super Bowl winners New England Patriots.**

**Top Tourist Attractions – Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, Salem, and of course Boston.**



**Boston**

### **Connecticut**

**The state is named for the Connecticut River which approximately bisects the state. The word "Connecticut" is derived from various anglicized spellings of an Algonquian word for "long tidal river".**



**Connecticut River**

**Connecticut's first European settlers were Dutchmen who established a small, short-lived settlement called Fort Hoop in Hartford at the confluence of the Park and Connecticut Rivers. Half of Connecticut was initially part of the Dutch colony New Netherland, which included much of the land between the Connecticut and Delaware Rivers. Thomas Hooker led a band of followers from the Massachusetts Bay Colony and founded the Connecticut Colony; other settlers from Massachusetts founded the Saybrook Colony and the New Haven Colony. In 1662, the three colonies were merged under a royal charter, making Connecticut a crown colony. This was one of the Thirteen Colonies which rejected British rule in the American Revolution.**

**Connecticut became the fifth U.S. state on January 9, 1788.**

**Connecticut has the highest per-capita income, Human Development Index (0.962), and median household income in the United States. The current median household income for Connecticut is \$74,168. The U.S. average is \$60,400.**

**There are no very large cities in Connecticut. The five largest cities are Bridgeport (pop. 147,000), New Haven (pop. 132,000), Stamford (pop. 131,000), Hartford (pop. 124,000), and Waterbury (pop. 109,000).**

**Finance and insurance are Connecticut's largest industries. Major financial industry employers include The Hartford, Travelers, Cigna, Aetna, Mass Mutual, People's United Financial, Royal Bank of Scotland, Bridgewater Associates, and GE Capital.**

**The median home in Connecticut in 2019 sells for \$230,000.**

**Religion: Protestant 35%, Roman Catholic 33%, Non-religious 28%, and others 4%.**

**Connecticut's race and ethnic percentages were: 77% White, 10% Black, 5% Asian, and 8% Other.**

**Major colleges: University of Connecticut and Yale University.**

**Foxwoods is New England's largest casino in Mashantucket, Connecticut. It was once the largest casino in the world. It remains one of the largest casinos in the United States: second only to WinStar World Casino and Resort in Thackerville, Oklahoma.**

**Top tourist attractions: Mystic Seaport - Yale Peabody Museum - Mystic Aquarium & Institution For Exploration - Gillette Castle State Park - Mashantucket Pequot Museum - Lake Compounce: Family Theme Park - Roseland Cottage**

## Rhode Island

Rhode Island, officially the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, is the smallest state in area, the seventh least populous, and the second most densely populated. It is bordered by Connecticut to the west, Massachusetts to the north and east, and the Atlantic Ocean to the south via Rhode Island Sound and Block Island Sound. It also shares a small maritime border with New York. Providence is the state capital and most populous city in Rhode Island with about 180,000 people.

## History

On May 4, 1776, the Colony of Rhode Island was the first of the Thirteen Colonies to renounce its allegiance to the British Crown, and it was the fourth among the newly independent states to ratify the Articles of Confederation on February 9, 1778. The state boycotted the 1787 convention which drew up the United States Constitution and initially refused to ratify it and was the last of the states to do so on May 29, 1790.

## Geography

Rhode Island's official nickname is "The Ocean State", a reference to the large bays and inlets that amount to about 14 percent of its total area. Narragansett Bay is a major feature of the state's topography. There are more than 30 islands within the bay; the largest is Aquidneck Island which holds the municipalities of Newport, Middletown, and Portsmouth. The second-largest island is Conanicut, and the third is Prudence. Block Island lies about 12 miles off the southern coast of the mainland and separates Block Island Sound and the Atlantic Ocean.



**Narragansett Bay**

## Primary Universities

University of Rhode Island and Brown University.

## Race and Ethnic Percentages

81% White, 6% Black, 3% Asian, and 10% Other.

## Religion

43% Catholic – 27% Protestant – 27% Non-religious



**WaterFire is a must-see, award-winning fire sculpture in downtown Providence**

### **Vermont**

**Vermont borders the U.S. states of Massachusetts to the south, New Hampshire to the east, New York to the west, and the Canadian province of Quebec to the north. Vermont is the second smallest by population and the sixth smallest by area of the 50 U.S. states. The state capital is Montpelier, the least populous state capital with a population of about 7,700 people. The most populous city, Burlington, is the least populous city to be the most populous city in a state with a population of about 43,000 people.**

**Vermont is the leading producer of maple syrup in the United States. Spring's warmer temperatures coax sugar maple trees to turn stored starch back into sugar. Sap is made as the tree mixes ground water with the sugar. The sap is mostly crystal-clear water with about 2% sugar. It takes 40 gallons of sap to make each gallon of maple syrup which has a sugar content of 66.9%.**



**Tapping a Maple Tree**

**In crime statistics, Vermont is currently ranked as the safest state in the country.**

### **History**

**For some 12,000 years indigenous peoples inhabited this area. The historic, competitive tribes known as the Algonquian-speaking Abenaki and Iroquoian-speaking Mohawk were active in the area at the time of European encounter.**

**During the 17th century French colonists claimed the territory as part of France's colony of New France. After England began to settle colonies to the south along the Atlantic coast, the two nations carried out their competition in North America as well as Europe. For years each enlisted Native American allies in continued raiding and warfare between the New England and New France colonies. This produced an active trade in captives taken during such raids and held for ransom. Some captives were adopted by families into the Mohawk or Abenaki tribes.**

**After being defeated in 1763 in the Seven Years' War, France ceded its territory east of the Mississippi River to Great Britain. Thereafter, the nearby British colonies, especially the provinces of New Hampshire and New York, disputed the extent of the area called the New Hampshire Grants to the west of the Connecticut River, encompassing present-day Vermont. The provincial government of New York sold land grants to settlers in the region, which conflicted with earlier grants from the government of New Hampshire. The Green Mountain Boys militia protected the interests of the established New Hampshire land grant settlers against the newly arrived settlers with land titles granted by New York.**

**Ultimately, a group of settlers with New Hampshire land grant titles established the Vermont Republic in 1777 as an independent state during the American Revolutionary War. The Vermont Republic partially abolished slavery before any of the other states. Vermont was admitted to the newly established United States as the fourteenth state in 1791. Vermont is one of only four U.S. states that were previously sovereign states (along with California, Hawaii, and Texas).**

**During the mid-19th century, Vermont was a strong source of abolitionist sentiment, but it was also tied to King Cotton through the development of textile mills in the region, which relied on southern cotton. It sent a significant contingent of soldiers to participate in the American Civil War. In the 21st century, Protestants (30%) and Catholics (22%) make up the majority of those reporting a religious preference, with 37% reporting no religion. Other religions individually contribute no more than 2% to the total.**

## **Geography**

The geography of the state is marked by the Green Mountains, which run north-south up the middle of the state, separating Lake Champlain and other valley terrain on the west from the Connecticut River valley that defines much of its eastern border. A majority of its terrain is forested with hardwoods and conifers. A majority of its open land is in agriculture. The state's climate is characterized by warm, humid summers and cold, snowy winters.



**The Green Mountains**

## **Race and Ethnic Percentages**

**94% White, 3% Asian, 2% Black, and 1% Other.**



**Lake Champlain is a large natural freshwater lake mostly in Vermont but goes into the state of New York and the province of Quebec in Canada.**



**Vermont is number one for skiing and snowboarding in New England and East of the Colorado and Utah Rocky Mountains.**

## **New Hampshire**

**Here is what I knew about New Hampshire before I did any research:**

- **It is a New England state located in the Northeast part of the U.S.**
- **It is located next to Vermont, but I can't remember which side.**
- **I know the capital is Concord (I have known every capital since age 8)**
- **I know they have a lot of trees and colorful leaves in the fall.**

**The only city in the state that I have heard of is Concord and it's not even the largest city in the state – in fact it is not even the second largest city in the state. Here are the top three by population:**

- **Manchester (110,000)**
- **Nashua (87,000)**
- **Concord (43,000)**

**These are the only cities over 40 thousand. I was surprised to find out that New Hampshire does have an Atlantic Ocean shoreline that is 18 miles wide and a Great Bay that connects to the ocean. The city of Hampton is located on the ocean and the city of Portsmouth is on the bay. The border with Canada is 58 miles long. New Hampshire also borders with Massachusetts, Maine, and Vermont.**



**Manchester**

**Here is some more info and statistics:**

- **New Hampshire was the 9th state in the US - it became a state on June 21, 1788.**
- **Major Industries - Textiles, lumber, tourism, electronic equipment, and software.**
- **Major Rivers - Androscoggin River, Connecticut River, and Merrimack River**
- **Major Lake - Lake Winnepesaukee**
- **Highest Point - Mt. Washington - 6,288 feet above sea level**
- **State Nickname - Granite State**
- **State Song - Old New Hampshire**
- **Median Household Income - \$74,000**

### **Race and Ethnic Percentages**

**94% White, 3% Asian, 1% Black, and 2% Other.**

### **Famous New Hampshire Covered Bridges**

**At one time there were over 10,000 covered bridges in the United States, but today there are only about 750 left. Over 200 of these are located in New England states. At one time New Hampshire had around 400 covered bridges but today only 54 remain. Located throughout the state, each bridge is unique to its town and design. Because of their beauty and the history behind them, covered bridges became the first type of historic structures specifically protected by state law in New Hampshire.**



**Haverhill-Bath Covered Bridge**

### **Why are there so many Covered Bridges in the Northeast?**

**The northeast is a region of rivers, streams and creeks – especially in the New England states, plus Ohio, and Pennsylvania. As the population surged out away from coastal areas into the forested interior, villages sprung up near water sources. The water source was used to power mills in these towns and villages which was often developed on both banks of a river. Bridges were the obvious answer to connect these divided communities, and provide access for townsfolk to things like school, worship, and supplies. Early covered bridges have a simple construction of wooden trusses.**

### **So, why are they covered and why are they painted Red?**

**Reason #1 – To provide protection against the weather for the bridge. A covered wooden bridge last about three times as long as those exposed to the elements and it also reduces bridge maintenance costs.**

**Reason #2 - To provide shelter for people and animals caught in a storm while traveling.**

**Reason #3 - The red paint makes the bridge seem more like a barn to a horse and since horses tend to be skittish about crossing flowing water, this illusion helped farmers and travelers navigate the obstacle with little or no incidents.**

### **The Mount Washington Cog Railway and other tourist attractions**

**If I ever get to New Hampshire and Vermont, I would like to go in the fall. I would rent a car and drive around the countryside so I can see the beautiful autumn leaves, the covered bridges, and visit a couple of those quaint little villages. I'm sure they will have nice taverns or pubs where I can sample some good New England brew. I would also like to take the COG train trip up to the top of Mount Washington - I do like trains – you know. More about this railroad in the pictures and text below.**



**Mount Washington COG Railway**

**It is quite obvious that a conventional type of railroad could never get a train and a carload of people up to the top of Mount Washington. The average grade is 25% with the steepest being over 37%. That means the track at the steepest point rises at the rate of 37 feet for every 100 feet it goes forward. Depending on which car you are in, the people in the front are 14 feet higher than the people in the back! It takes a special type of railway to accomplish the task of bringing people up to the summit of Mount Washington.**

**The Mount Washington Cog Railway is the first and oldest cog railway in the world. Started in 1866, it was completed to the summit in 1869. The 2.8 miles of track are built entirely on wooden trestle. On top of this wooden trestle two light steel rails are laid in a method similar to standard railroad construction. The rails are raised to allow clearance for the spur gears which drive the locomotive. Located in the center of the steel rails is a cog rack. This track is designed specifically for the unique cog engines of Mount Washington. The locomotives and cars are equipped with cogs that engage into the rack. The cog is driven by the steam pistons of the locomotive through a system of gears.**

### **Fishing**

**The only other thing I can think of that I want to do in New Hampshire is go fishing. New Hampshire's Lakes Region is known for its great fishing. It has over 270 lakes and ponds and nearly 70,000 acres of water. Lake Winnepesaukee, Waukegan, Squam, Newfound, Winnisquam and Sunapee all offer a great fishing experience. I would also like to catch a few Brooke Trout on one of the many scenic streams and rivers.**

### **Maine**

**Maine is the largest state in the New England region – in fact it is about the same size as the other five states combined. It is bordered by New Hampshire to the west, the Atlantic Ocean to the southeast, and the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick and Quebec to the northeast and northwest, respectively. Maine is the only state in the U.S. to border just one other state; it is the easternmost state. The easternmost city is Lubec which is marked by the West Quoddy Head Lighthouse.**



**West Quoddy Head Lighthouse and Quoddy Narrows**

**Maine is known for its jagged, rocky coastline; low, rolling mountains; heavily forested interior; and picturesque waterways, as well as its seafood cuisine, especially lobster and clams. There is a humid continental climate throughout most of the state, including in coastal areas such as its most populous city of Portland (population 68,000). Maine's capital city is Augusta (population 19,000).**



**Old Port Area of Portland**

**For thousands of years, indigenous peoples were the only inhabitants of the territory that is now Maine. At the time of European arrival in what is now Maine, several Algonquian-speaking peoples inhabited the area. The first European settlement in the area was by the French in 1604 on Saint Croix Island, by Pierre Dugua, Sieur de Mons. The first English settlement was the short-lived Popham Colony, established by the Plymouth Company in 1607. A number of English settlements were established along the coast of Maine in the 1620s, although the rugged climate, deprivations, and conflict with the local peoples caused many to fail over the years.**

**As Maine entered the 18th century, only a half dozen European settlements had survived. Loyalist and Patriot forces contended for Maine's territory during the American Revolution and the War of 1812. During the War of 1812, the largely undefended eastern region of Maine was occupied by British forces but returned to the United States as part of a peace treaty that was to include dedicated land on the Michigan peninsula for Native American peoples. Maine was part of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts until 1820, when it voted to secede from Massachusetts to become a separate state. On March 15, 1820, under the Missouri Compromise, it was admitted to the Union as the 23rd state.**

### **Race and Ethnic Percentages**

**95% White, 1% Black, 1% Asian, 1% American Indian, and 2% Other.**

### **Religion**

**37% Protestant – 31% No Religion – 21% Catholic – 11% Other**

**A recent study named Maine as the least religious state in the United States.**

### **Language**

**The latest census reported 92% of Maine residents aged five and older spoke only English at home. French-speakers are the state's chief linguistic minority; census figures show that Maine has the highest percentage of people speaking French at home of any state: 5.3% of Maine households are French-speaking, compared with 4.7% in Louisiana, which is the second highest state.**

### **Interesting Facts about Maine**

**Maine's highest peak is named after a car. Well, sort of. Cadillac Mountain, the highest peak on the East Coast, is named after the explorer, Antoine Laumet de la Mothe, sieur de Cadillac. The famous luxury car company is also named for him.**



**90% of the country's lobster supply comes from Maine. Approximately 40 million pounds of lobster is caught off the coast of Maine each year.**



**Maine is the single largest producer of blueberries in the United States. Did you know that 99% of the blueberries produced in the US come from the Pine Tree State?**

**Donut holes were invented in Maine. The first donuts in America did not have holes. They were introduced by the Dutch who fried dough in hot oil, but they often cooked unevenly with the center staying raw. Capt. Hansen Gregory, from Rockport, Maine came up with the solution of punching a hole in the center while working as a 16-year-old crewman on a lime-trading schooner in 1847.**

**Maine is the country's second coldest state in spring. Okay, Alaska is the coldest state in all seasons, but as far as the lower 48 go, Maine is the coldest of all during the spring. North Dakota is coldest during winter and fall while Wyoming is the chilliest state during the summer months.**

## **A GREAT New England Adventure**

**Let's wrap up this article with 12-day road trip to New England. We to be there when the leaves are peaking at their brightest colors therefore, we want to start our trip in Maine in late September and work our way south to Rhode Island. I have picked one or two things I want to see or do in each state.**

### **MAINE**

**Take a windjammer cruise to enjoy the wildlife, scenery, and amazing food from many places along the coast of Maine.**

**Spent a day and night in lively Portland to explore the harbor area and take a tour of one of the many lighthouses.**

### **VERMONT**

**Go Trout fishing on one of the many lakes, rivers, and streams.**

**Drink some great Vermont beer. Did you know that Vermont leads the nation in breweries and beer production per capita?**

### **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**Take a long drive in the country to enjoy the bright colored leaves and other scenic things like the covered bridges.**

**Ride the Cog Railway Train to the top of Mount Washington.**

### **MASSACHUSETTS**

**Spent a day and night in Boston. Go see a sporting event – either a Redsox baseball game or a Celtics basketball game or a New England Patriots football game.**

**Get some exercise by walking the Freedom Trail. Some of Colonial America's most iconic landmarks mark Boston's three-mile Freedom Trail as it winds through the old city's narrow streets to connect 16 historic monuments and attractions.**

### **CONNECTICUT**

**Spend one night at each of Connecticut's two Indian casinos, Foxwoods Resort Casino in Ledyard and Mohegan Sun in Uncasville. They are operated on tribal lands under the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act by the state's two federally recognized tribes, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe and the Mohegan Tribe, respectively.**

**Weather permitting, play a round or two of golf at one or both casinos golf courses.**

### **RHODE ISLAND**

**Go deep sea fishing at Narragansett Bay to enjoy a day out on the water.**

**Spent the last night in Providence with a great meal and a few cold ones.**

**What do you think? Does this sound like a great trip or what?**

**If I had to pick just one New England state to visit, it would be Vermont. I have learned that they have a lot of friendly beer drinkers in this state. New Hampshire would be a close second. Vermont and New Hampshire have a lot in common and would be a great place to live.**

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