

**My Drift**



**Jerry D. Petersen**

**New Hampshire  
“Live Free or Die”  
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**New Hampshire? Well, yes. I was thinking (again) about the states that I have never been to in all my travels around this beautiful and interesting country of ours. There is no place on Earth that has the variety of things to see and do that we do right here in the United States of America. So, anyway, I have added eight (8) states to my “Bucket List” to visit before I kick the bucket. These states are South Dakota, North Dakota, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, South Carolina, Vermont, and New Hampshire. How could I have missed going to Nashville, Tennessee is a great mystery to me since I really like country and western music. Then I thought, “Which of these eight states do I know the least about?” It was a tie between Vermont and New Hampshire. For the tie breaker, I decided to write about the state with the state motto I liked the best – “Freedom and Unity” versus “Live Free or Die”?**

**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 states’ capital since age 8)**
- **I know they have a lot of trees and colorful leaves in the fall.**
- **They are the first state to vote in the primaries and that they voted for Obama.**

**That is about it. I can’t understand why they voted for Obama – I always thought there were smart people living in the New England states. The map on the next page shows that New Hampshire is on the right of Vermont next to Maine. It also shows me that 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.



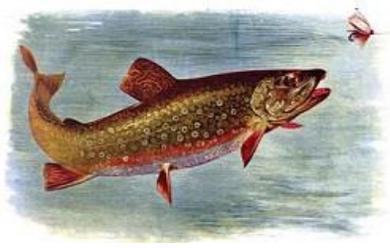
Manchester



Here are some more statistics:

- New Hampshire was the 9th state in the US - it became a state on June 21, 1788
- Area - 9,351 square miles which makes it the 46th biggest state
- Population - 1,316,470 is the 41st most populous state in the US
- 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
- New Hampshire State ...

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bird</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Purple Finch</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Animal</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>White-tailed Deer</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Insect</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ladybug Beetle</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Butterfly</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Karner Blue</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Freshwater Fish</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Brook Trout</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Saltwater Fish</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Striped Bass</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fruit</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Pumpkin</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Flower</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Purple lilac</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tree</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>White Birch</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Rock</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Granite</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Gem</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Smoky Quartz</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sport</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Skiing</b></p>

The state color must be purple!

Here is a quick history lesson:

<p><b>1623</b> The first known European settlement in New Hampshire was founded in Piscataqua.</p>	<p><b>1808</b> The state capital was established in Concord. It is home to the nation's oldest legislative building in which the House and Senate still meet.</p>
<p><b>1679</b> England formed New Hampshire as a separate royal colony and named it after Hampshire, England.</p>	<p><b>1853</b> Franklin Pierce of Hillsboro, New Hampshire, became the 14th U.S. President.</p>
<p><b>1767</b> Wolfeboro, the summer home of Royal Governor John Wentworth, became the first summer resort in America.</p>	<p><b>1869</b> The mountain climbing cog railroad began operation at Mt. Washington. It is still in operation today.</p>
<p><b>1769</b> Dartmouth College was founded in Hanover, New Hampshire.</p>	<p><b>1923</b> The University of New Hampshire was established in Durham, New Hampshire.</p>
<p><b>1775</b> New Hampshire became the first state to declare its independence from England.</p>	<p><b>1952</b> New Hampshire held the First-in-the-Nation Presidential Primary and citizens began voting directly for presidential candidates.</p>



**Famous Covered Bridges**



**Quaint New Hampshire Village**

### **Covered Bridges**

At one time there were over 10,000 covered bridges in the United States, and today 54 of the remaining 750 are located in New Hampshire. 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.

### **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 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.

**Why are they covered and why are they painted Red?**

**Theory #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.**

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

**Theory #3 - The red paint makes the bridge seem more like a barn to a horse and since horses tend to be skittish about crossing high over 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 go to New Hampshire, 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 a nice tavern 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 below and the text on the next page.**



**Mount Washington COG Railway**

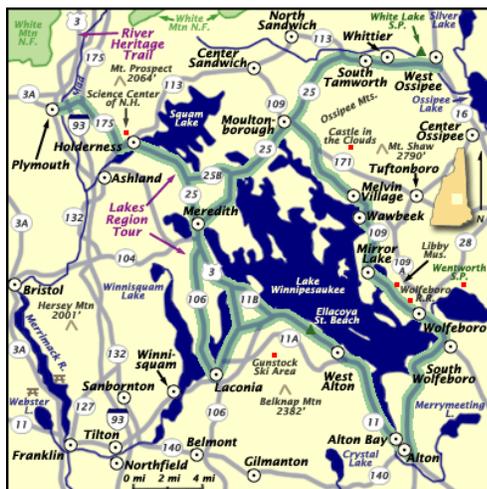
It is quite obvious that a conventional type of railroad could never get a train and a car load of people up Mount Washington. The average grade is 25% with the steepest being over 37%. That means the track at the steepest point rises at the rate of 37 feet for every 100 feet it goes forward. Depending 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.

New Hampshire seems like it would be a nice state to live in.



Lakes Region



[bigdrifter44@gmail.com](mailto:bigdrifter44@gmail.com)  
<http://bigdrifter.com/>