



## STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

# FIRSTS

- ❑ First in the nation primary - New Hampshire has held a presidential primary since 1916 and started the tradition of being the **first** presidential primary in the United States starting in 1920.
- ❑ First written State Constitution in the New World and set the stage for the Declaration of Independence which was written six months later 1775
- ❑ First gondola used for transporting skiers up a mountain - 1958 Wildcat (2 person gondola)
- ❑ First state to have all female State Leaders (Gov, Sen Pres, Speaker, Supreme Court Chief Justice) 2012 Maggie Hassen, Jeanne Shaheen, Ann McLane Kuster, Carol Shea-Porter, Justice Linda Dalianis
- ❑ First state to have ALL female legislators sent to Washington. D.C. - Jeanne Shaheen, Kelly Ayotte, Ann McLane Kuster, Carol Shea-Porter
- ❑ First state to have two female US Senators of different political parties
- ❑ First mountain-climbing train in the nation - 1866 The Cog took delivery of Peppersass [originally named 'Hero']
- ❑ First American in space (Alan B. Shepard) 1961 Mercury spacecraft - capsule named Freedom 7. Launched on Redstone Rocket. Did not orbit earth - flew 116 miles high and came back down (15.5 minutes).
- ❑ First town forest - 1710 Newington (then part of Dover)
- ❑ First ski school in America - 1929 Sugar Hill —Peckett's-on-Sugar Hill ski school, near Franconia, NH, founded by Katharine "Kate" Peckett to become the first resort based ski school in the U.S.
- ❑ First female majority legislative body - the State Senate in 2008
- ❑ Largest early ski jump in eastern United States and foremost jump in the US - Nansen Ski Jump was the largest for almost 50 years. Constructed 1936-38. 171 foot steel frame tower / 310 foot runway
- ❑ First Teacher in Space - 1986 Christa McAuliffe - Challenger
- ❑ First state library in America - New Hampshire State Library 1717
- ❑ First public-funded through taxation library in America - Peterborough 1833
- ❑ First act of the Revolutionary War thus breaking ties with England--- 1774 the attack on Fort William and Mary, New Castle
- ❑ One of oldest auto race in USA – 1904 Mt Washington Hill Climb
- ❑ First alarm clock – Levi Hutchins 1787 (mechanical alarm)

- ❑ Longest golf drive ever – Alan Shepard – 2.5 miles – moon
- ❑ Only state where the parks system is completely funded by user fees instead of appropriations from the budget
- ❑ Merrimack Clydesdales – only horses to ever play football in a Super Bowl commercial
- ❑ Longest running lottery in the USA – initially tied to horse races instead of number draws to avoid federal anti-lottery laws. 1963 Sweepstakes Program.
- ❑ First meeting of Republican Party 1853
- ❑ First national day of Thanksgiving 1863 was proclaimed through the efforts of NH's Sarah Josepha Hale
- ❑ First legal state lottery 1964
- ❑ First woman to edit a magazine - Sara Josepha Hale 1828-36 Ladies Magazine; 1837-77 Godey's Lady Book
- ❑ First African-American female to publish a novel - 1859 Harriet (Adams) Wilson, Milford - Her book *Our Nig; Or, Sketches from the Life of a Free Black* tells the story of Frado, a young girl who is left by her mother to work for a local family known as the "B family." That family, particularly the mother and daughter, abuse Frado both verbally and physically. JerriAnne calls the book Frado's coming of age story.
- ❑ Largest American flag - Manchester Millyard 1814
- ❑ First submarine 1917 - L-8 Portsmouth Naval Shipyard
- ❑ Longest covered bridge - Cornish-Windsor 1866 449' two-span, town lattice-truss crosses Connecticut River between Cornish NH and Windsor VT.
- ❑ Oldest covered bridge still in use - 1829 Bath-Haverhill Bridge - Route 135 crossing Ammonoosuc River. Town lattice truss with arches, 256 feet long. First and only bridge on this site.
- ❑ First America's cup 1873 Grand Opening Regata - opening of Oceanic Hotel. Isles of Shoals to Boon Island. Won by "America"
- ❑ Oldest/Largest artists' colony - 1907 McDowell Artists Colony, Peterborough
- ❑ First integrated baseball team - Nashua Dodgers farm club of the Brooklyn Dodgers 1946-1949. Played at Holman Stadium, Nashua
- ❑ First "Old Home" days - 1899 (under Governor Rollins) - 44 NH towns held Old Home Week celebrations the last week in August. Invented by Frank Rollins.
- ❑ League of NH Craftsmen 1932 first in nation - set up by Gov. John Winant
- ❑ First credit union - St. Mary's 1908
- ❑ Oldest unrestored meeting house - Danville 1725
- ❑ First alien abduction in America- Betty and Barney Hill, Woodstock, NH
- ❑ First serial killer - H. H. Holmes (Herman Mudgett), Gilmanton 1861-1896
- ❑ First Warship built in North America (1690 HMS Falkland - commissioned by British Government - added to Royal Navy 1695)
- ❑ First US Navy Shipyard - 1800 Fernald's Island, Piscataqua River - first government-sanctioned

- ❑ First Organization to protect forests in the nation - 1901 Society for the Protection of NH Forests
- ❑ First American Ski Film - premiered 1932 at National Ski Association meeting in Chicago
- ❑ First American Book on Skiing - serialized in 1931 and 1932 issues of 'Dartmouth Alumni Magazine' "Modern Ski Technique by Otto Schniebs and John McCrillis
- ❑ Oldest Ski Club in Nation - 1882 Skiklubben (renamed to Nansen Ski club)
- ❑ First Snow Train in the Nation: AMC sponsored a Boston & Maine RR train in 1931 (Boston - Warner)
- ❑ First Skimobile in Nation - 1938 Mount Cranmore
- ❑ First Aerial Tramway in North America - 1938 Cannon Mountain 2,022' vertical ascent in under 8 minutes
- ❑ Oldest continuous conservation and mountaineering club in North America - Appalachian Mountain Club 1876
- ❑ First Interactive Video Game in Nation - 1966 Ralph H Baer, Sanders Associates 1969
- ❑ First Transatlantic Cable in Nation - 1874 ocean telecommunications cable Europe to America was in Rye Beach, NH
- ❑ First Machinists' Tool Manufacturer - 1845 shop of John Gage, Nashua Manufacturing Company
- ❑ Largest Shaker Community Dwelling - 1837 Enfield Shaker - Great Stone Dwelling
- ❑ First Women's Strike in Nation - 1828 Cocheco Mills, Dover
- ❑ Largest State Legislature in the Oldest Representative's Hall in the Nation - 400 members still meet in original chambers at NH State House built in 1819
- ❑ First meeting of the Republican Party - 1853 - Amos Tuck called meeting in Exeter
- ❑ First professional (paid) ski patrol in America - Cannon Mountain 1938 [Mount Hood in Oregon has a single patroller in 1937]

Primary Sources:

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NH State Council on the Arts - Folk Life:

<https://www.nh.gov/folklife/learning-center/firsts-bests.htm>

New England Ski Museum - Ski History for 4th graders:

<http://newenglandskimuseum.org/new-hampshire-ski-history-for-4rth-graders/>

Wikipedia

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