

# This Day in History... June 21, 1788

## New Hampshire Becomes 9th State

On June 21, 1788, New Hampshire ratified the US Constitution and was admitted to the Union.

What is now New Hampshire was home to about 5,000 Native Americans before European settlement. Most of these people belonged to the Algonquian Indian family. These Native Americans built houses called wigwams out of bark and animal skins. Hunting and fishing were supplemented by small-scale farming of corn. The Algonquian Natives often fought with their neighbors, the Haudenosaunee (also known as the Iriquois).

It is unknown which European explorer first reached today's New Hampshire. However, by the early 1600s, many expeditions had set foot on this land. In 1603, Martin Pring, an Englishman, sailed a trading ship up the Piscataqua River. Pring may have landed at the site of present-day Portsmouth. In 1605, the French explorer Samuel de Champlain landed on the New Hampshire coast. The English captain John Smith reached the Isles of Shoals in 1614.



*At the center of the New Hampshire flag is the USS Raleigh, one of the first 13 warships built in the American Navy.*

King James I of England was very interested in colonizing the New England area. In 1619, he founded the Council for New England to organize and encourage settlers. The council gave David Thomson control of a large chunk of land in the New Hampshire area. Thomson settled in Odiorne's Point, which is now part of Rye, in 1623. Edward Hilton established another settlement in the 1620s. Hilton's group settled Hilton's Point, which is now called Dover. Other early settlements include Stawbery Banke at the site of present day Portsmouth in 1630, and Exeter and Hampton in 1638.

The Council for New England granted a large tract of land to John Mason and Sir Ferdinando Gorges in today's Maine and New Hampshire. The land was divided between the two men in 1629. Mason called his land New Hampshire – he was originally from Hampshire, England.

New Hampshire was made part of the colony of Massachusetts in 1641, then King Charles II made it a separate province in 1680. The king named John Cutt New Hampshire's first provincial governor.

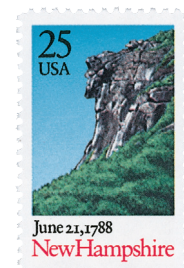
Between 1689 and 1763, the British and the French fought a series of wars. In North America, both sides fought with the assistance of Native American allies, with the battles in North America being referred to as the French and Indian Wars. These two great powers fought in the New World for control of inland territories and domination of the fur trade. As a result of the wars, the British gained control of most of France's land in North America.

During these wars, two colonial leaders from New Hampshire earned great fame. Robert Rogers, the leader of a group of soldiers known as Roger's Rangers, and John Stark both contributed to the British victory in this series of conflicts.

Colonial New Hampshire was very rural and had little industry. Most of the people were farmers who kept busy clearing land and raising food. When the colony took its first census in 1767, it was determined that 52,700 people made their homes there.



*Stamp pictures the Old Man of the Mountain, which was made New Hampshire's official trademark in 1945.*



*The Old Man of the Mountain stone formation collapsed in 2003.*

## This Day in History... June 21, 1788 continued

Although the king appointed New Hampshire's governor and governor's council, the people of New Hampshire enjoyed a great deal of independence. The people elected assemblymen who attended to colonial affairs, and there was little interference from the crown. However, the taxation and trade laws passed by Great Britain during the 1760s upset the colonists.

In December of 1774, Paul Revere rode to New Hampshire to warn of an increase in British troops in the area. This prompted New Hampshire rebels under the leadership of John Sullivan to seize arms from a British military fort in New Castle. This raid was one of the first military actions against the British by the colonists.

When the War for Independence broke out in Massachusetts in 1775, New Hampshire responded by sending hundreds of "minutemen." New Hampshire's soldiers served with distinction. Interestingly, New Hampshire was the only colony of the original 13 in which no actual fighting took place.



*Stamp pictures a pair of white-tailed deer as well as buildings in the city of Portsmouth.*



*A reissue of the above stamp to meet increased first-class rate.*

New Hampshire was the first colony to form its own independent government. On January 5, 1776, it adopted a temporary constitution. On June 21, 1788, New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify the United States Constitution. New Hampshire's approval of the document put the Constitution into effect and officially made it the United States of America's ninth state.

After the American Revolution, life remained much the same in New Hampshire. The vast majority of people were engaged in agricultural pursuits. However, with the start of the American Civil War, a new industrial growth began. The state's industrialization continues to this day.

New Hampshire was well known as a leader in the anti-slavery movement. These beliefs were reflected in the fact that 32,500 of the state's citizens served with Union forces. These patriots fought in every major battle of the war.

After the war, industrial growth increased. Primary industries included textiles, woodworking, and leather. The new factories attracted thousands of immigrants from Canada and Europe.

However, many of the state's farmers left the state to claim free land in the West. Thus, the state's agricultural output decreased while industries grew.

New Hampshire's industries continued to grow throughout the 1900s. During World War I and World War II, the state's textile mills made military uniforms. Other industries flourished as well. As a result, the state became increasingly urban.

Today, New Hampshire is one of the few states that does not collect a general individual income tax or a general sales tax. This low-taxation policy has attracted many new businesses and factories to the state. During the 1980s, the state enjoyed unprecedented growth. As New Hampshire entered the 21st century, the state focused a great deal of attention on preserving the environment, while maintaining its industrial base.



*Stamp pictures the New Hampshire flag with a loon swimming across a lake.*



*Stamp features New Hampshire's state bird and flower, the purple finch and lilac.*

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**Mystic Stamp Company • Camden, NY 13316**



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