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INVENTORY OF THE COUNTY ARCHIVES
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Prepared by

The Historical Records Survey
Division of Women's and Professional Projects
Works Progress Administration

No. 1. BELKNAP COUNTY

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Manchester, New Hampshire
The Historical Records Survey
June 1938

DEPARTMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT

REPORT NO. 10

The Historical Records Survey

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The Historical Records Survey
1935

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F O R E W O R D

The Inventory of County Archives of New Hampshire is one of a number of bibliographies of historical materials prepared throughout the United States by workers on the Historical Records Survey of the Works Progress Administration. The publication herewith presented, an inventory of the archives of Belknap County, is number 1 of the New Hampshire series.

The Historical Records Survey was undertaken in the winter of 1935-36 for the purpose of providing useful employment to needy unemployed historians, lawyers, teachers, and research and clerical workers. In carrying out this objective, the project was organized to compile inventories of historical materials, particularly the unpublished government documents and records which are basic in the administration of local government, and which provide invaluable data for students of political, economic, and social history. The archival guide herewith presented is intended to meet the requirements of day-to-day administration by the officials of the county, and also the needs of lawyers, business men and other citizens who require facts from the public records for the proper conduct of their affairs. The volume is so designed that it can be used by the historian in his research in unprinted sources in the same way he uses the library card catalog for printed sources.

The inventories produced by the Historical Records Survey attempt to do more than give merely a list of records - they attempt further to sketch in the historical background of the county or other unit of government, and to describe precisely and in detail the organization and functions of the government agencies whose records they list. The county, town, and other local inventories for the entire country will, when completed, constitute an encyclopedia of local government as well as a bibliography of local archives.

The successful conclusion of the work of the Historical Records Survey, even in a single county, would not be possible without the support of public officials, historical and legal specialists, and many other groups in the community. Their cooperation is gratefully acknowledged.

The Survey was organized and has been directed by Luther H. Evans, and operates as a nation-wide project in the Division of Women's and Professional Projects, of which Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward, Assistant Administrator, is in charge.

HARRY L. HOPKINS
Administrator

P R E F A C E

The Historical Records Survey was initiated in January 1936 as a nation-wide undertaking of the Works Progress Administration, but did not begin operations in New Hampshire until April 7. The Survey was a part of the Federal Writers' Project until November 20 when it was set up as a separate unit. The purpose of the Survey is to make accessible to lawyers, historians, and students of government the records of state, county, municipal, and town offices. In conjunction with this listing of public records, the church records (including those of defunct organizations) will be inventoried so that the ground work may be laid for research in this neglected field of social history. An integral part of this endeavor will necessitate recommendations to the custodians to encourage a more orderly arrangement and the better care and preservation of public records.

This volume is one in a series of publications by the Historical Records Survey concerning the local archives of New Hampshire. A volume on church records has already appeared and volumes on the town records will be published by county units. The Historical Records Survey did the field work on Belknap County in the spring of 1936. The recheck was made in the summer of 1937.

The Survey wishes to express its appreciation for the cooperation received from Belknap County officials and the Secretary of State. The Survey is further indebted to the New Hampshire Works Progress Administration for assistance received. At various times the State Director has consulted Professors Herbert W. Hill, Allen R. Foley and Wayne E. Stevens of Dartmouth College; Professors Allen B. Partridge and William Yale of the University of New Hampshire, and Major Otis G. Hammond.

Requests for information concerning publications should be addressed to the state director, Hoyt Administration Building, Manchester, New Hampshire.

June 22, 1938

Richard G. Wood
State Director
The Historical Records Survey

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTY OFFICES

Introduction

New Hampshire was without county organization for almost a century and a half after the first settlement. For many years there was no need for a division of the Province since the population was clustered about Portsmouth, the colonial capital. As the settlements began to reach the Merrimack River, the inconvenience of journeying to Portsmouth for court sessions became more and more of a burden. About 1755, an agitation began for the division of the Province into counties. At that time the chief justice was ready to resign because of the low salary. When the Governor requested that the chief justice be granted an adequate salary, the Assembly refused unless the Governor and Council would consent to a law for the erection of counties. Since neither of the contending parties would give way, the controversy continued until 1769.¹ In this year a compromise was arranged so that the chief justice could have his salary and the Assembly could have its counties. The element of compromise lay in the fact that five counties were created, three of which were to be established immediately and the two remaining counties were to be established when the Governor deemed the population to be sufficient.² Hillsborough, Rockingham, and Cheshire were created at once. Strafford and Grafton Counties were not created until 1773.³ Royal consent to the act of 1769 was not received until 1771,⁴ hence the county records begin in that year.

In some ways the Province was the pattern for the county. Formerly, there had been one court; now there were county courts. The sheriff⁵ and the treasurer⁶ had been provincial officers; now one appeared in each county. The same situation obtained for the registers of deeds and of probate.⁷

As a political unit, the county stands at the half-way station between the state and the town. In some ways, the county represents an advantage of centralization over the town. The county, for instance, represents a more economical unit for the administration of relief as shown by the abolition of town poor farms and the growth of the county farms. The county represents a convenient unit for a division of the superior court and it is a centralized depository for land records as manifested in the office of the register of deeds. On the other hand, the towns frequently owe allegiance directly to the state and not

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1. Fry, W. H., New Hampshire as a Royal Province (New York, 1908), 459-465; Upton, R. H., Revolutionary New Hampshire (Hanover, 1936), 10-11.
 2. Laws of New Hampshire, 3:524-530 (1769).
 3. Ibid., 3:587-588 (1773).
 4. New Hampshire State Papers, 7:274.
 5. Fry, W. H., op. cit., 471-472.
 6. Richard Martyn was appointed the first treasurer under the Commission of 1690. See Belknap, J., History of New-Hampshire (Dover, 1831), 91.
 7. Laws of New Hampshire, 3:604-605 (1773).

County Convention

through the county. Roads are rarely a county concern. Education is not a county function, and although towns are combined for educational efficiency, the unit is the supervisory union which frequently cuts across county lines. Vital statistics are kept by the town clerks and not by the county clerk who is merely one of the county commissioners.

The counties are not uniform in size since the area of the three northern counties (Coos, Grafton, and Carroll) is almost exactly the same as the seven southern counties. The number of political subdivisions (towns and cities) varies from eleven (Belknap) to thirty-nine (Grafton). In addition, Coos County contains a score of unorganized areas which have no town government. Hillsborough (140,165) is the most populous; Carroll (14, 277), the least populous county. Strafford County contains three cities; Hillsborough and Merrimack, two each; Belknap, Cheshire, Coos, and Rockingham, one each. Carroll, Grafton and Sullivan contain no cities, but in Sullivan County the town of Claremont (12, 377) is larger than the two smallest cities of the state.

Like the town and the city, the county is a separate legal entity. "Each county is a body corporate for the purpose of suing and being sued, purchasing, holding and conveying real and personal estate for county purposes, making all necessary contracts, and doing other necessary acts relating to the property and concerns of the county."⁸ Other general powers and duties include the maintenance of certain buildings and fireproof vaults, condemnation of land for county uses, the filing of bonds by county officers, the recopying of public records, and publication of annual reports of which one copy must be sent to the town clerk of each town within the county and twenty copies to the Secretary of State who deposits bound copies in the State Library.⁹

County Convention

Sometimes called the county delegation, this body is composed of the members in the lower house of the legislature. Unless a special session is called, the members meet only during the legislative session each biennium. The convention is charged with making the county budget but, in practice, the county authorities exert considerable control. Prior to 1877 the records were kept by the clerk of the court of common pleas or his successor.¹⁰ Since that date the records of the convention are deposited with the Secretary of State. The clerk of the convention is supposed to send copies of proceedings to the county commissioners.¹¹ Apparently this is not done in all counties.

8. Public Laws of New Hampshire, Chapter 35, Section 1.

9. Ibid., Chapters 35, 37, 38, 41.

10. Revised Statutes of New Hampshire, Chapter 23, Section 3 (1842).

11. Public Laws of New Hampshire, Chapter 35.

County Commissioners

This board originated as county road commissioners, established in 1828. There were five for each county and were appointed by the Governor and Council for five year terms. Their duties consisted in laying out highways when two or more towns were involved.¹² By 1842 the commissioners appear as a three member board elected with the other county officials.¹³ Petitions concerning roads were referred to the commissioners by the county court.¹⁴ Their records were deposited with the clerk of court.

A transition from the road commissioners to the forebears of the present county commissioners began in the next decade. In 1855, a board of three commissioners was created to take over the duties of the road commissioners, to be custodians of county property, and to review all claims for the support of county paupers.¹⁵ In 1860, the commissioners had their powers over county paupers increased.¹⁶ Three years later, the board was obliged to share its financial authority with the county convention.¹⁷ In 1875, they began to send copies of their printed annual reports to the Secretary of State.¹⁸ The powers of the commissioners have steadily increased.¹⁹ At present the three commissioners are elected each biennium by popular vote.²⁰ They are the chief executive authority in the county and their duties are prescribed by law. They make an annual report to the State Tax Commission; appoint a superintendent of the county farm and house of correction; and have general authority over these institutions. Moreover, they have general authority over outdoor relief. They are in charge of county property and make repairs up to \$1,000 without consulting the county convention. No member of the board may be appointed superintendent of the county farm during his incumbency as commissioner. The board designates one of its members as clerk.²¹ In Carroll and Coos Counties the commissioners are paid on a per diem basis; in the remaining counties they have salaries.²² In six counties (Carroll, Cheshire, Grafton, Merrimack, Rockingham, and Strafford) the commissioners are elected at large but in Belknap, Coos, Hillsborough, and Sullivan Counties, they are elected by districts.²³ There seems to be a trend in the latter direction as the district system assures the towns of a commissioner as against the cities.

Clerk of the Superior Court

Although justice was provided for in Massachusetts courts when New Hampshire was under the jurisdiction of that colony, and although the Governor and his Council constituted a court of justice for a period, it was not until the end of the seventeenth century that the Province had a court which was a separate entity.²⁴

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12. Laws of New Hampshire, 9:915-923 (1828).
 13. Revised Statutes of New Hampshire, Chapter 20 (1842).
 14. Ibid., Chapter 50 (1842).
 15. New Hampshire Laws of 1855, Chapter 1659, Sections 37, 38.
 16. New Hampshire Laws of 1860, Chapter 2349.
 17. New Hampshire Laws of 1863, Chapter 2735.
 18. New Hampshire Laws of 1875, Chapter 29.
 19. Public Statutes of New Hampshire, Chapter 27 (1891).
 20. Public Laws of New Hampshire, Chapter 36, Section 1.
 21. Ibid., Chapter 38.
 22. New Hampshire Manual for the General Court 1937, 430-431.
 23. New Hampshire Laws of 1931, Chapter 134; New Hampshire Laws of 1929, Chapter 142; New Hampshire Laws of 1937, Chapters 39, 83.
 24. Fry, W. H., op. cit., 421-458.

Justice of the Peace (Trial Justice)

The act of county organization (1769) made provision for a superior court of judicature, and inferior court of common pleas, and a court of general sessions of the peace. The latter court was abolished in 1794. After a varied history as to name, function and organization, the court of common pleas was abolished in 1859.²⁵ During some phases in its history it was styled the supreme judicial court. As such, it was known in 1901, when it lost its county affiliation, and became a state court. In that same year, the present superior court of judicature, organized on a county basis, reappeared;²⁶ and has continued to the present time.

The constitution²⁷ prescribed that clerks of court shall be appointed by the judges of the court for an indefinite term. During this term the clerk may not act in a legal capacity (attorney or counsel) in any case where he is the clerk. He renders accounts both to the court and to the county commissioners. "The clerk shall keep all books, records, files and papers belonging to his office in the safe provided for that purpose when they are not in use."²⁸ Certain county expenditures must be approved by the justices of the superior court, such as: jury payrolls, "state vs. _____" payrolls, and miscellaneous expenses. The Brookings Report²⁹ has already protested against the administrative duties of the court. The clerk prints a section, usually brief, in the county Annual Reports.

Justice of the Peace (Trial Justice)

Since the colonial period the justice of the peace has been a unit in the judicial system of New Hampshire.³⁰ He had a limited civil and criminal jurisdiction. At present, the courts where the justice of the peace exercises such powers are called justice courts. The records are deposited with the clerk of the superior court.³¹ Formerly, the volume of business was much greater than now. Since trial justices occur in only seven New Hampshire towns, this may, strictly speaking, be regarded as a town office but is mentioned here because the records have been filed with a county repository (superior court).

Register of Deeds

As early as 1682, by order of the Governor, the task of recording deeds was attached to the duties of the clerk of the Governor's Council.³³ By the time that the Province was divided into counties, the recorder of deeds was evidently well established since the division law continued

25. New Hampshire Manual for the General Court 1917, 188.
26. New Hampshire Laws of 1901, Chapter 78.
27. Art. 81.
28. Public Laws of New Hampshire, Chapter 320, Section 4.
29. Pp. 432-433.
30. Fry, W. H., op. cit., 469-470.
31. Public Laws of New Hampshire, Chapter 322.
32. New Hampshire Manual for the General Court 1937, 427.
33. Laws of New Hampshire, 1:57-58 (1682).

Register of Probate

that office as "appointed by the Governor Council & Assembly Agreeable to and as has been the usual practice in this Province in appointing Recorders for the Province."³⁴The Constitution of 1784, however, provided that the registers of deeds (to use the new title) should be elected by the people,³⁵ and this has continued to be an elective office. The office is authorized by the present constitution.³⁶ Incumbents are elected for a two year term. Fee system rather than a salary is in use. By law this officer is required to register deeds and similar instruments and make an index thereof.³⁷ A recent duty is the sending of a list of deeds, mortgages, and conveyances to the towns.³⁸

Register of Probate

The probate court itself dates from colonial times. There was probably a register of probate as early as 1656, and certainly by 1661.³⁹ The registers in the separate counties received affirmatory powers by legislative act in 1773.⁴⁰ Under the Constitution of 1784, registers were appointed by the Governor (then called President) and Council.⁴¹ This arrangement was continued by the Constitution of 1792,⁴² and the office was not made elective until an amendment in 1877.⁴³ The duties of this office have been prescribed by law from time to time. The clerk is answerable for the custody of all records; must keep a docket and index of all cases; provide inventory blanks for appraisers of estates; record inventories, wills, accounts, and appointments of a probate nature; and make biennial return to the Secretary of State of names changed by the probate court.⁴⁴ In 1935, the legislature provided that a list of deceased persons be sent to the town clerks each year.⁴⁵

Sheriff

There seems to have been no sheriff in New Hampshire before 1682 and the duties of that office were performed by the constable.⁴⁶ The colonial sheriff was an official of considerable importance. Appointed by the Governor of the Province, he was the chief law enforcement officer, and, before 1758, impanelled jurors. When the Province was divided into counties, a sheriff was appointed for each county.⁴⁷ The Constitution of 1784 provided that sheriffs should continue to be

34. Ibid., 3:527 (1769).

35. Poor, B. P., Federal and State Constitutions, (Washington, 1877), 2:1290.

36. Art. 70.

37. Public Laws of New Hampshire, Chapter 40.

38. N. H. Laws of 1935, Chapter 57.

39. New Hampshire State Papers, 33:vi.

40. Laws of New Hampshire, 3:604-605 (1773)

41. Poore, B. P., op. cit., 2:1288-1289.

42. Ibid., 2:1302.

43. N. H. Manual for the General Court 1937, 38.

44. Public Laws of New Hampshire, Chapter 294.

45. N. H. Laws of 1935, Chapter 57.

46. Shirley, J. M., "Early Jurisprudence of New Hampshire" in Proc. N. H. Historical Society (Concord, 1888), 1:250.

47. Fry, W. H., op. cit., 471-472.

Medical Referees (Coroners)

appointed by the President (Governor) and Council and the document of 1792 continued this method.⁴⁸ His tenure is for two years and he receives both salary and fees. The sheriff may appoint deputies, must serve writs and processes, render accounts to the county commissioners, and attempt to suppress riots.⁵⁰ In some counties (as Hillsborough) the sheriff acts as jailer.⁵¹

Related to the office of sheriff was that of the county crier. This office dates from the colonial period. His fees were first mentioned as early as 1693.⁵² From this list we discover that it was his duty to call the jury and swear in the witnesses. After the formation of the counties the crier is found as a county official. He was also known as marshall. The laws are silent on his duties but his fees were regulated on several occasions down to 1820.⁵³ This office seems to have disappeared in the 1830's as it does not appear in the list of county officers printed in the New Hampshire Register after that decade.

Medical Referees (Coroners)

In colonial New Hampshire the coroners had the duty of investigating violent or unusual deaths. In some cases they performed certain duties of the sheriff.⁵⁴ The coroners received county jurisdiction in 1769.⁵⁵ The coroner was an appointive office for an indefinite period. His duties were fully defined in 1791.⁵⁶ In 1829, his term was reduced to five years.⁵⁷ In 1903, the term, coroner, dropped out and was replaced by the term, medical referee.⁵⁸ At present the medical referees are appointed by the Governor as provided in the constitution.⁵⁹ The number in the counties varies: Coos, Grafton, and Hillsborough, three each; Rockingham, two; the remaining counties, one. The chief duty is to hold the inquest in cases where death "is suspected to have been caused by violence or unlawful act." The medical referees are compensated by fees. They keep no records but make reports to the attorney-general and/or county solicitors.⁶⁰

Solicitor

In the colonial period there was one solicitor for the whole Province known as the attorney-general⁶¹ or king's attorney. He was not mentioned in the earlier constitutions, but a law of 1789 provided that solicitors should be appointed for each county by the Governor and

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48. Poore, B. P., op. cit., 2:1288, 1302.
 49. New Hampshire Manual for the General Court 1937, 38.
 50. Public Laws of New Hampshire, Chapters 324, 374.
 51. Ibid., Chapter 397, Sections 9, 10.
 52. Laws of New Hampshire, 1:551 (1693).
 53. Ibid., 1:579 (1693); 2:150 (1714), 279 (1718); 3:491 (1768); 5:617 (1791); 7:414 (1805); 8:1008 (1820).
 54. Fry, W. H., op. cit., 472.
 55. Laws of New Hampshire, 3:526 (1769)
 56. Ibid., 5:747-751 (1791).
 57. Ibid., 10:54-58 (1829)
 58. N. H. Laws of 1903, Chapter 134.
 59. Article 45,
 60. Public Laws of New Hampshire, Chapter 376.
 61. Fry, W. H., op. cit., 468.

Treasurer

Council;⁶² and amendment in 1877 made this an elective office.⁶³ The term is for two years. In Coos and Merrimack Counties, solicitors take office on January 1 rather than April 1.⁶⁴ It is the duty of the solicitor to "prosecute or defend any suit in which the county is interested."⁶⁵ The solicitor prints a list of crimes and misdemeanors committed in his county in the Annual Reports and sends to the county commissioners civil actions pending for or against the county.⁶⁶ The solicitors keep no records; they turn over their material to the county commissioners. Only in Cheshire, and Hillsborough Counties have records of the solicitor been discovered.

Treasurer

County treasurers evidently existed from the division of the Province into counties, since they are mentioned in the Constitution of 1776. That brief document⁶⁷ stated that they were elective and this status has been retained. Tenure is for two years. The duties of the major county administrative officers are so arranged that the treasurer remains a part-time official. The duties of the treasurer are to collect the county taxes; disburse funds upon receiving vouchers from the county commissioners or upon order from the superior court; render an annual statement of funds received to the county commissioners; and borrow money with the advice and consent of the commissioners and the superior court.⁶⁸ At the suggestion of the Brookings Institute, a uniform system for receipts and payments sponsored by the State Tax Commission was introduced in 1935.⁶⁹

Auditors

The county auditors date from the 1870's when they were appointed by the county convention.⁷⁰ At present, two auditors, one from each of the two major political parties, are appointed annually by the superior court. They audit the accounts of the county commissioners, the superintendent of the county farm, and the county treasurer at regular intervals and on special occasions upon order of the superior court.⁷¹ They publish a certification of their audit in the Annual County Reports.

Superintendent of the County Farm

During the colonial period the poor of the town were cared for by the justices of the peace.⁷² Later, the poor were auctioned off for their

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62. Laws of New Hampshire, 5:463 (1789)
 63. N. H. Manual for the General Court 1937, 38.
 64. Public Laws of New Hampshire, Chapter 36, Section 1.
 65. Ibid., Chapter 16, Section 19.
 66. Ibid., Chapter 16, Sections 24, 25.
 67. Poore, B. P., op. cit., 2:1280.
 68. Public Laws of New Hampshire, Chapter 39.
 69. N. H. Laws of 1933, Chapter 165.
 70. N. H. Laws of 1872, Chapter 43.
 71. Public Laws of New Hampshire, Chapter 35, Sections 18-25.
 72. Fry, W. H., op. cit., 470.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COUNTIES

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Creation</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Belknap.....	December 23, 1840.....	
Carroll.....	December 23, 1840.....	
Cheshire.....	April 29, 1769.....	Approved by King March 19, 1771
Coos.....	December 24, 1803.....	Effective March 1, 1805
Grafton.....	April 29, 1769.....	Approved by King March 19, 1771 but attached to Rocking- ham until February 5, 1773
Hillsborough.....	April 29, 1769.....	Approved by King March 19, 1771
Merrimack.....	July 3, 1823.....	
Rockingham.....	April 29, 1769.....	Approved by King March 19, 1771
Strafford.....	April 29, 1769.....	Approved by King March 19, 1771 but attached to Rocking- ham until February 5, 1773
Sullivan.....	July 5, 1827.....	

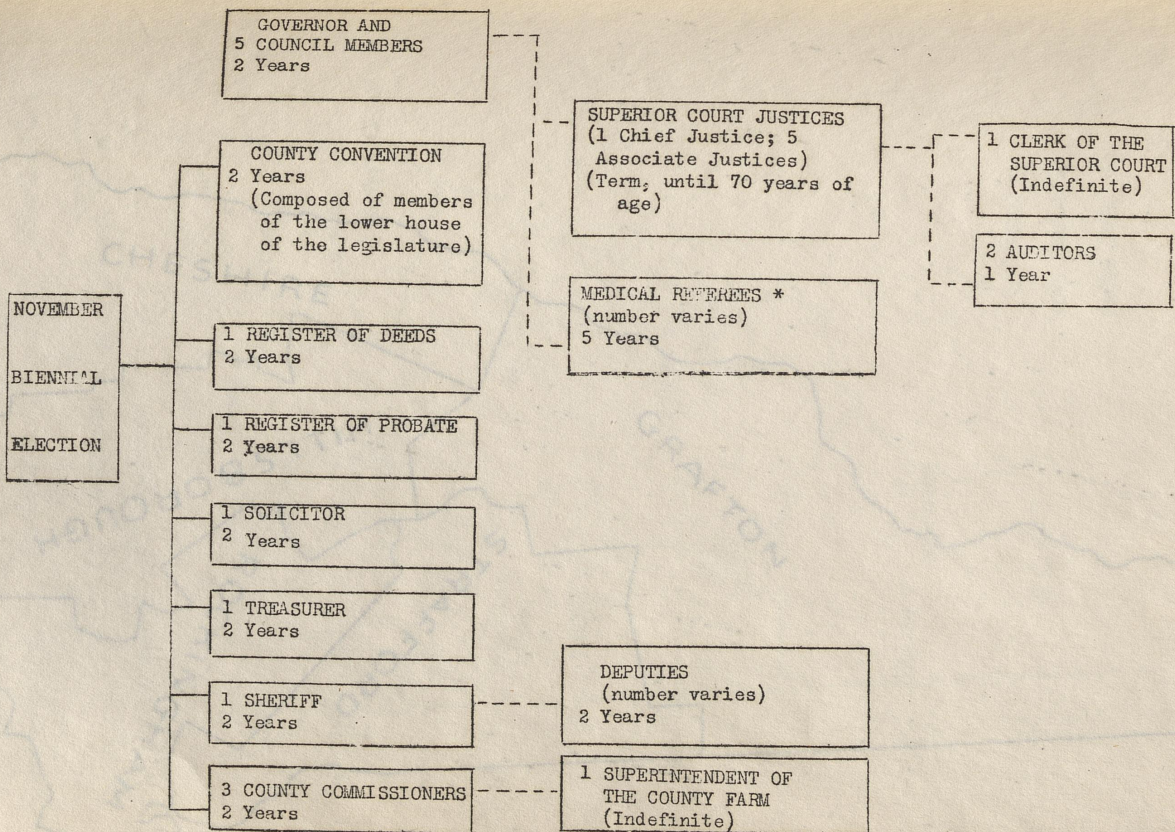
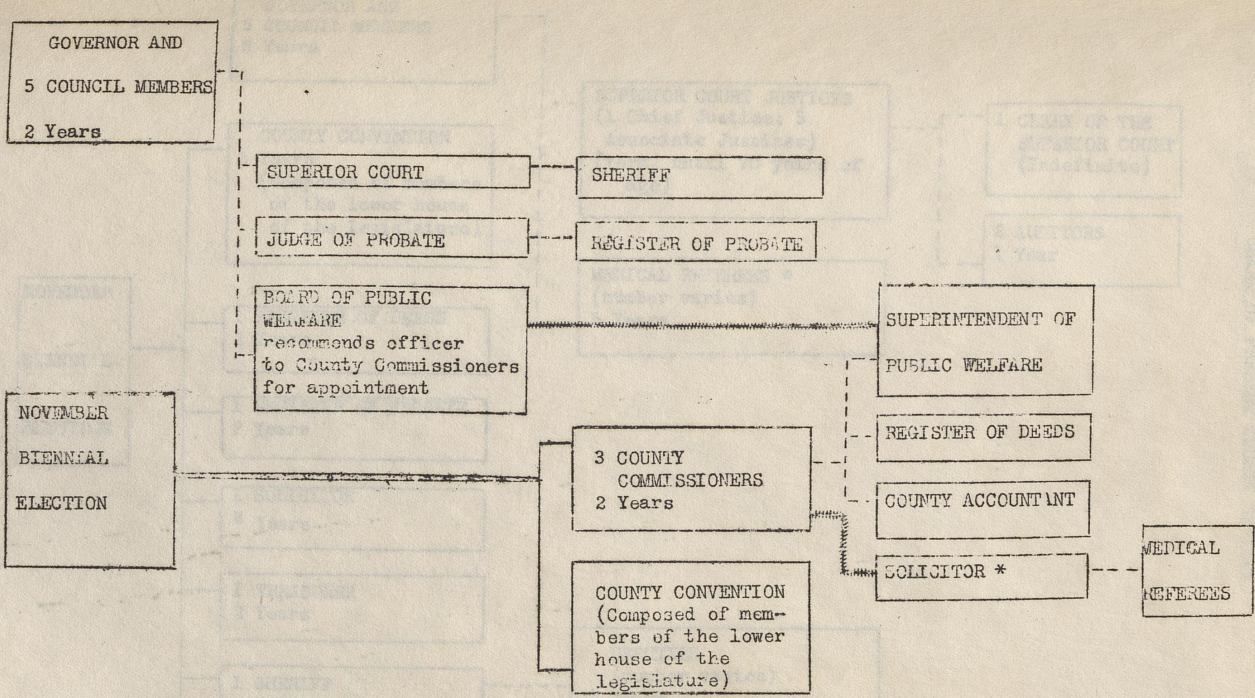


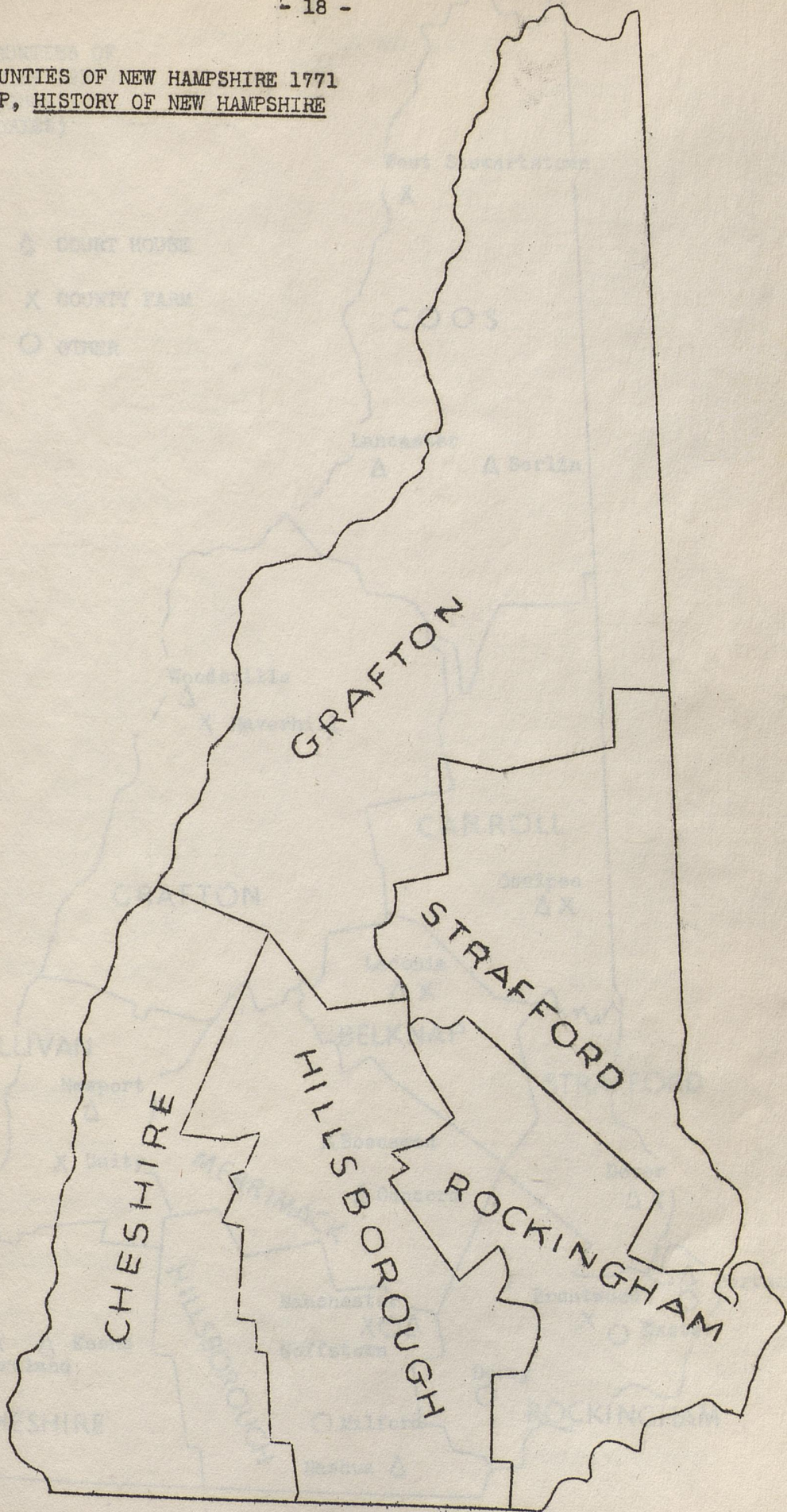
CHART OF PRESENT COUNTY OFFICES

Elected _____
 Appointed - - - - -
 * Appointed by Governor only.



Elected _____
 Appointed _____
 Nominated _____
 * Appointed by the Attorney-General

ORIGINAL COUNTIES OF NEW HAMPSHIRE 1771
J. BELKNAP, HISTORY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



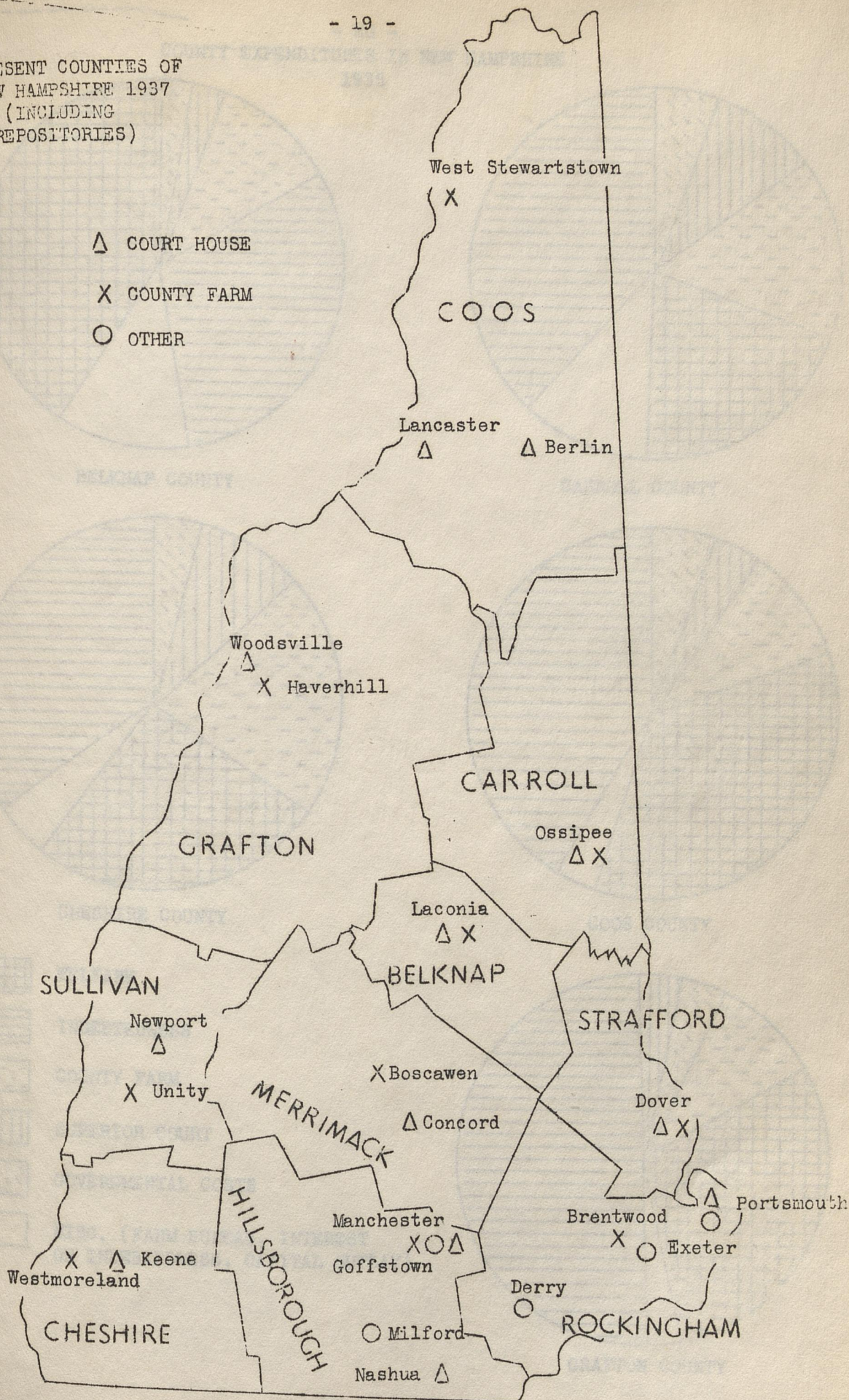
S. J. 1861
COUNCIL MEMBERS
COMMISSIONERS

PRESENT COUNTIES OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE 1937
(INCLUDING
REPOSITORIES)

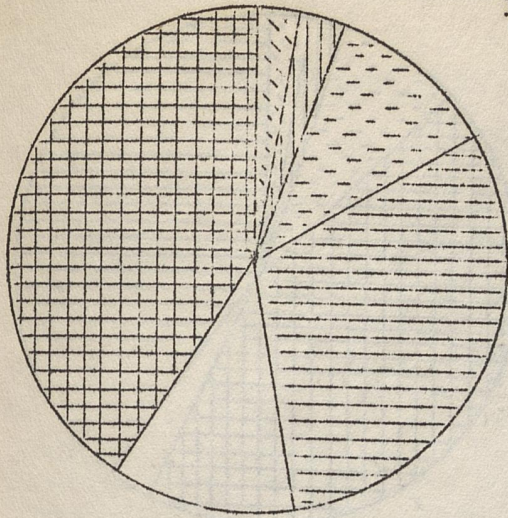
△ COURT HOUSE

X COUNTY FARM

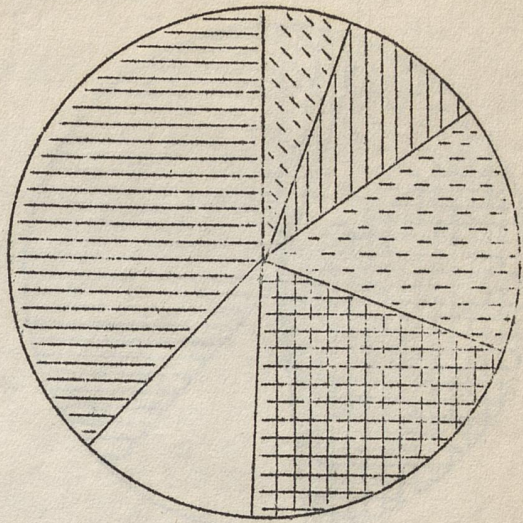
○ OTHER



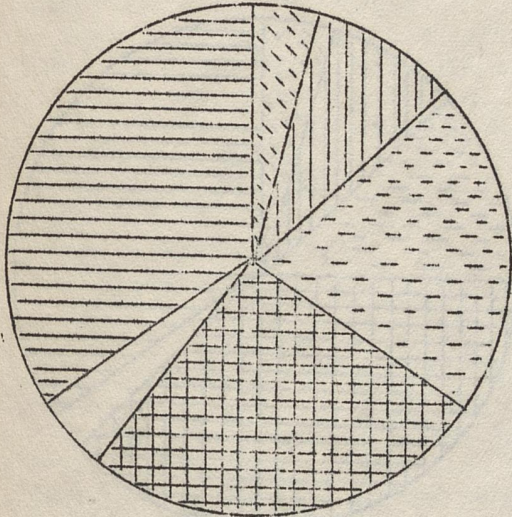
COUNTY EXPENDITURES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE
1935



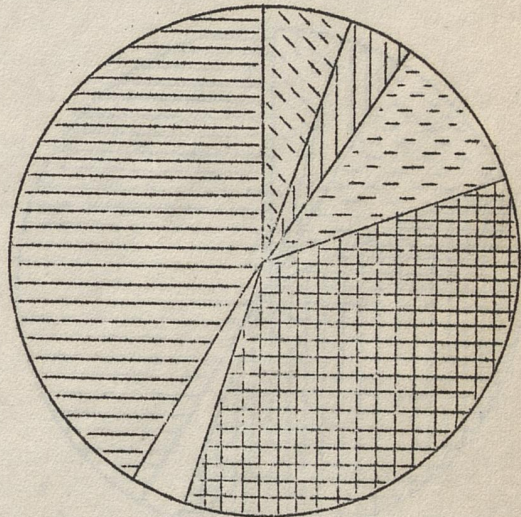
BELKNAP COUNTY









CARROLL COUNTY

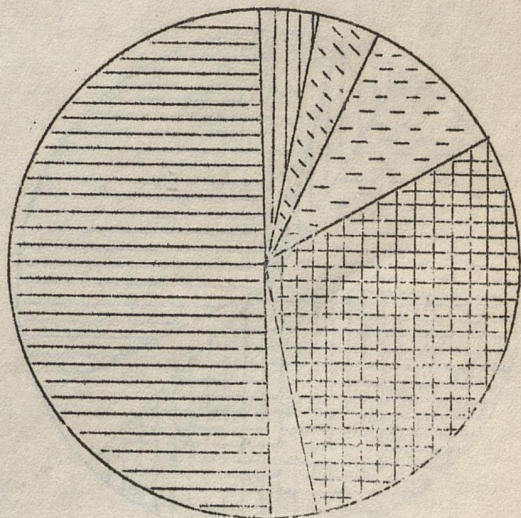


CHESHIRE COUNTY



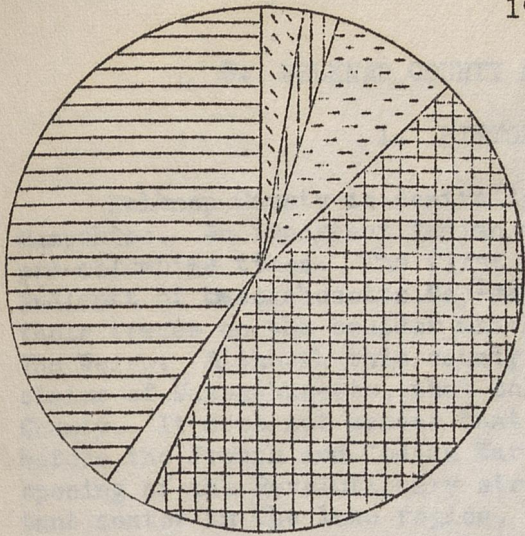
COOS COUNTY

-  WELFARE
-  INDEBTEDNESS
-  COUNTY FARM
-  SUPERIOR COURT
-  GOVERNMENTAL COSTS
-  MISC. (FARM BUREAU, INTEREST ON INDEBTEDNESS, CAPITAL OUTLAY)

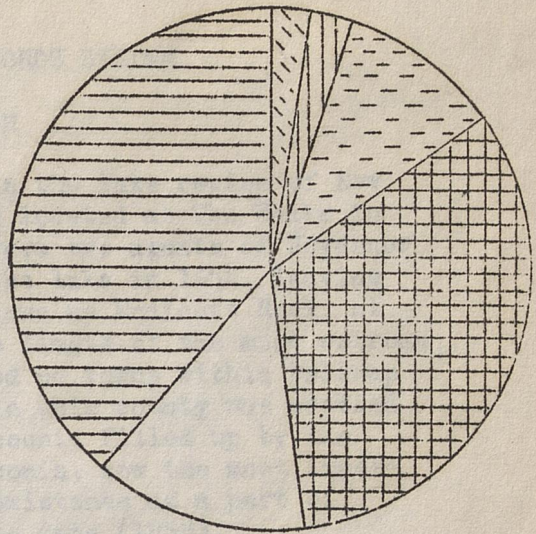


GRAFTON COUNTY

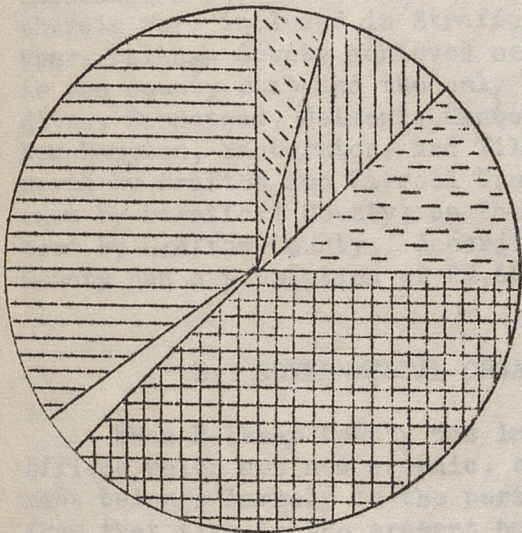
COUNTY EXPENDITURES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE
1935



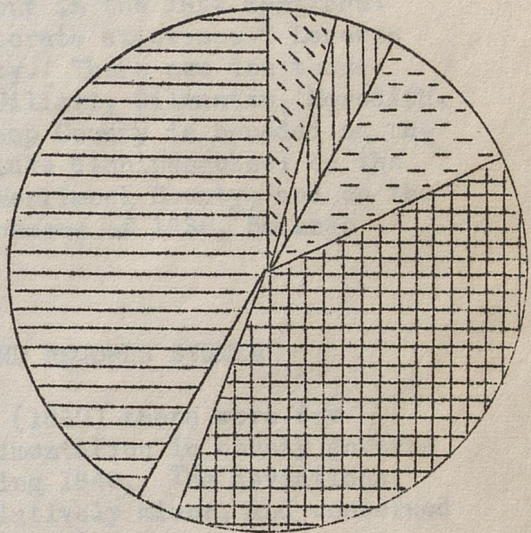
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY









MERRIMACK COUNTY

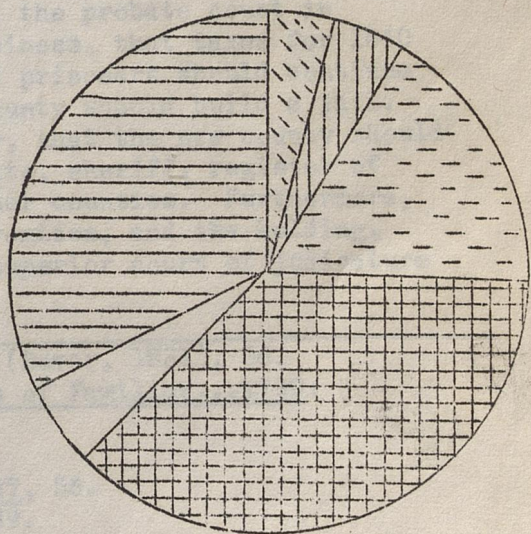


ROCKINGHAM COUNTY



STRAFFORD COUNTY

-  WELFARE
-  INDEBTEDNESS
-  COUNTY FARM
-  SUPERIOR COURT
-  GOVERNMENTAL COST
-  MISC. (FARM BUREAU, INT. REST ON INDEBTEDNESS, AND IN CASE OF MERRIMACK COUNTY CAPITAL OUTLAY ON COURT HOUSE AND COUNTY FARM).



SULLIVAN COUNTY

B. BELKNAP COUNTY AND ITS RECORDS SYSTEM

1. HISTORICAL SKETCH

Belknap County is centrally located in the lake region of New Hampshire. An important Indian village was located at The Weirs in pre-columbian times. The first explorers were two agents of Governor Endicott of Massachusetts Bay¹ who reached the lake in 1652, leaving their traces on the boulder which is now known as Endicott Rock, at The Weirs. Although this county marked the limits of the most extreme claims of Massachusetts, that colony granted no towns within Belknap County. It does not appear that any town in this county was settled before the French and Indian War, but the county filled up by the opening of the Revolutionary struggle. Laconia, now the most important center in the lake region, began its existence as a part of Meredith, and was not separated until a late date (1855).

The name, Belknap, perpetuates the fame of Jeremy Belknap, New Hampshire's pioneer historian. From 1771 to 1840, most of the towns therein were included in Strafford County² but in the last mentioned year, Belknap County achieved separate corporate existence.³ Laconia is the county seat and the only municipality. There are ten towns: Alton, Barnstead, Belmont, Center Harbor, Gilford, Gilmanton, Meredith, New Hampton, Sanbornton, and Tilton.⁴ Belknap County is bounded on the north by Grafton and Carroll Counties and Lake Winnepesaukee; on the east by Strafford County; on the south by Merrimack County; and on the west by Grafton County. According to the census of 1930, Belknap County had a population of 22,623 persons.

2. GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND RECORDS SYSTEM

When Belknap County was incorporated (1840) there were few offices which are now archaic, since experimentation in county government belongs largely to the periods preceding 1840. The deviations from that time to the present have been relatively minor, and concerned mostly with details rather than general principles.

The removal of all jurisdiction from the parent county of Strafford to the newly created county of Belknap was not immediate, since the act of incorporation stated that the probate court in Strafford should settle all unfinished business, that taxes for 1840 should be collected by Strafford, and that prisoners should continue to be jailed in Strafford until the new county should build a jail. The act of incorporation provided, however, that the new county should have a judge of probate, register of probate, sheriff, register of deeds, and treasurer, chosen as in the other counties. Furthermore, the act authorized the Belknap county convention, and the holding, within the confines of this county, of a superior court of judicature and a court of common pleas.⁵

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1. Belknap, J. History of New Hampshire, (Dover, 1831), 56.
 2. Vide Tanner Map in U. S. Census, Heads of Families...1790: New Hampshire, (Washington, 1917).
 3. N. H. Laws of 1840, Chapter DXXXIX.
 4. N. H. Manual for the General Court 1937, 56.
 5. New Hampshire Laws of 1840, Chapter 539.

In 1842, the New Hampshire Register listed the Belknap County offices as clerk of court, county solicitor, county treasurer, register of deeds, county sealer, road commissioners, justices of the peace, sheriff, deputy sheriffs, and coroners.⁶

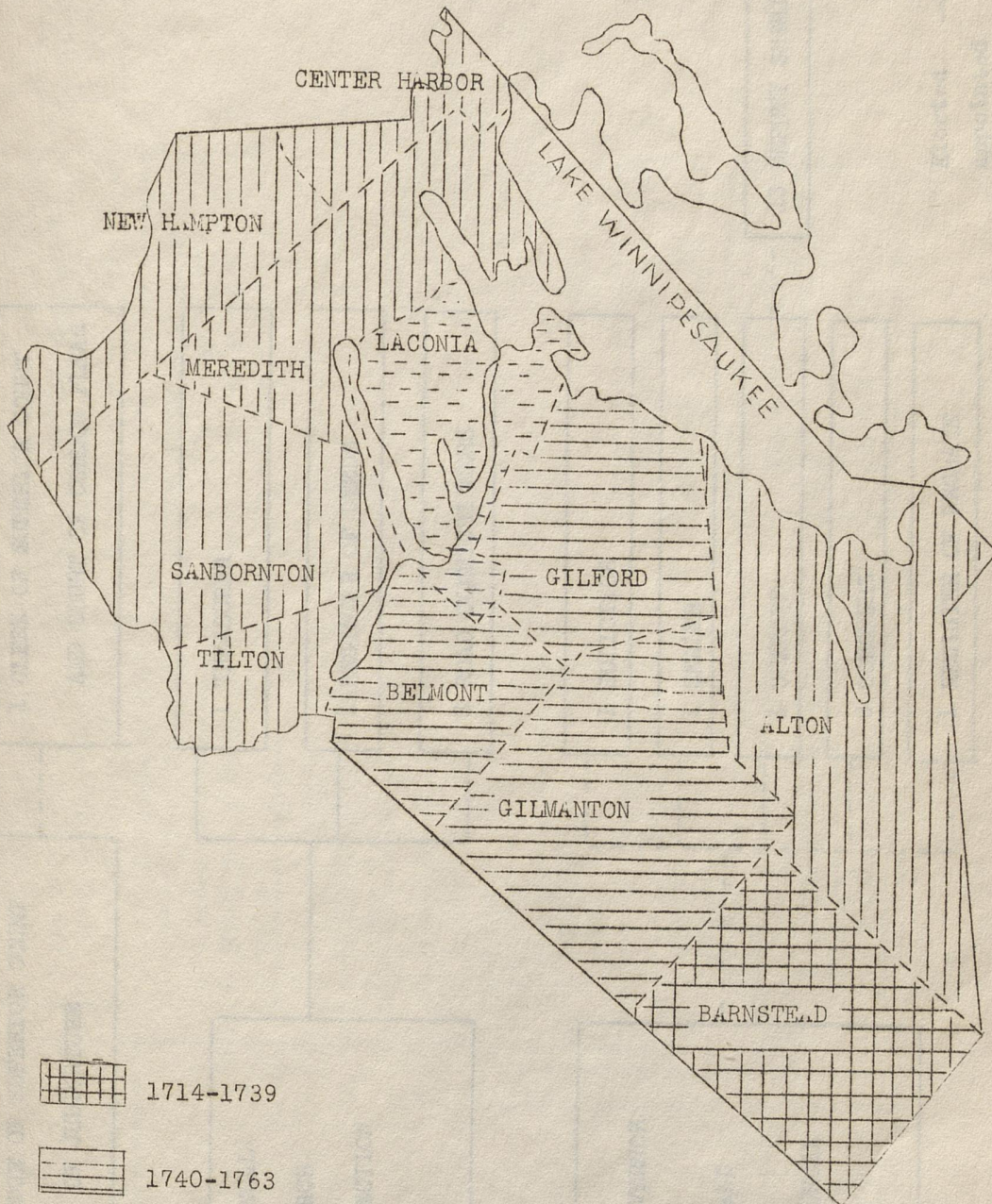
A few changes have occurred since that time. The office of sealer of weights and measures (county sealer) was abolished by law as a county office in 1919;⁷ moreover, Belknap County seems to have abandoned this office even earlier than the other counties except Hillsborough and Coos.⁸ Road commissioners have given way to county commissioners. The latter were authorized by legislative act in 1855 to be elected in 1856;⁹ they first appeared in the 1857 issue of the New Hampshire Register.¹⁰ Coroners were replaced by a medical referee in 1903.¹¹ The medical referee also acts as county farm doctor.





County auditors, appointed by the county convention, were provided for by law in the 1870's;¹² and Belknap County had this office at least as early as 1878.¹³ Various terms such as "agent" and "overseer" have been used to denote the office now held by the superintendent of the county farm, but the term "superintendent" was in use at least by 1873, although his first report did not occur until 1875.¹⁴ The office of justice of the peace (trial justice), although a county office in the sense that its records are filed with the clerk of the superior court,¹⁵ is not concerned with Belknap County, at the present time, since of the seven New Hampshire towns that now have trial justices none are located in Belknap County.¹⁶

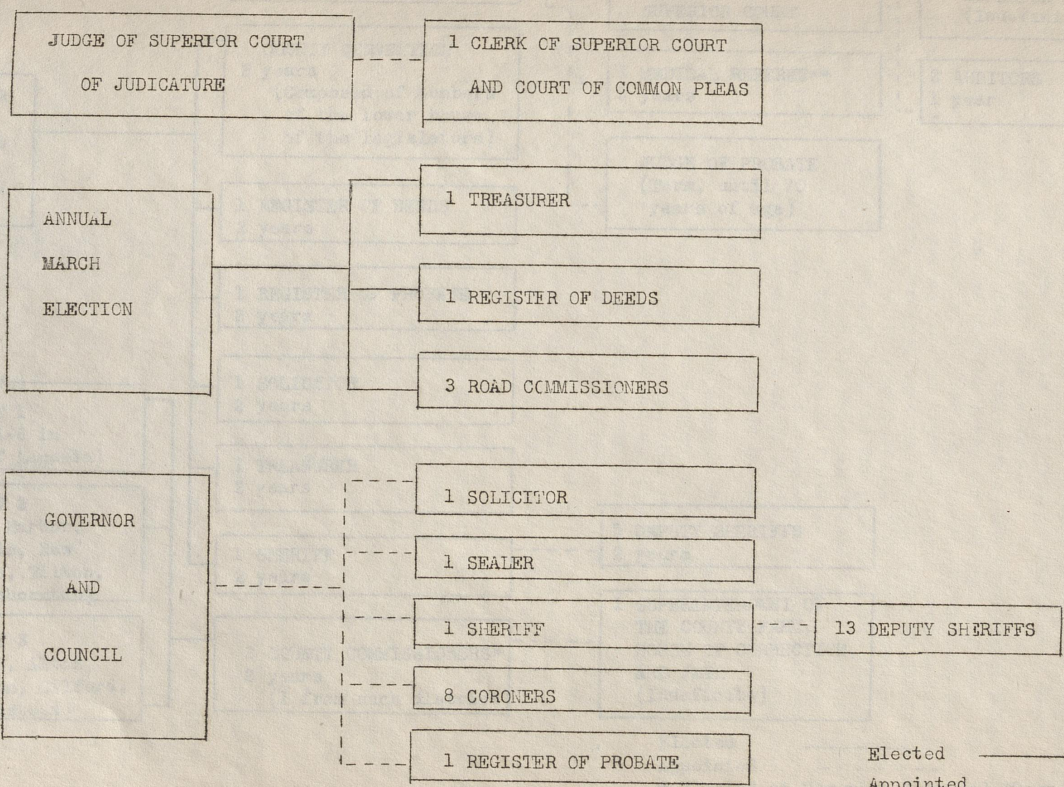
The present Belknap County offices consist of auditors; clerk of the superior court; county commissioners; register of deeds; judge of probate; register of probate; sheriff; deputy sheriffs; solicitor; superintendent of the county farm, house of correction, and jail; treasurer; medical referee (county farm doctor), chaplain; and county physician. The auditors, judge of probate, medical referee, deputy sheriffs, superintendent of the county farm, house of correction, and jail, clerk of the superior court, county physician and chaplain are appointive; the others are elective. Since 1931,¹⁷ the county commissioners have been elected from districts, whereas, formerly, they were elected at large.

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6. New Hampshire Register 1842, 50-52.
 7. New Hampshire Laws of 1919, Chapter 149, section 3.
 8. New Hampshire Register 1918-1919, 324-328.
 9. New Hampshire Laws of 1855, Chapter 1659, Sections 37, 38.
 10. New Hampshire Register 1857, 55.
 11. New Hampshire Laws of 1903, Chapter 134; New Hampshire Register 1903, 288-290.
 12. New Hampshire Laws of 1872, Chapter 43.
 13. MS. Belknap County Records, 1878.
 14. Belknap County Reports 1873, 1875.
 15. Public Laws of New Hampshire, Chapter 322.
 16. New Hampshire Manual for the General Court 1937, 427.
 17. New Hampshire Laws of 1931, Chapter 134.

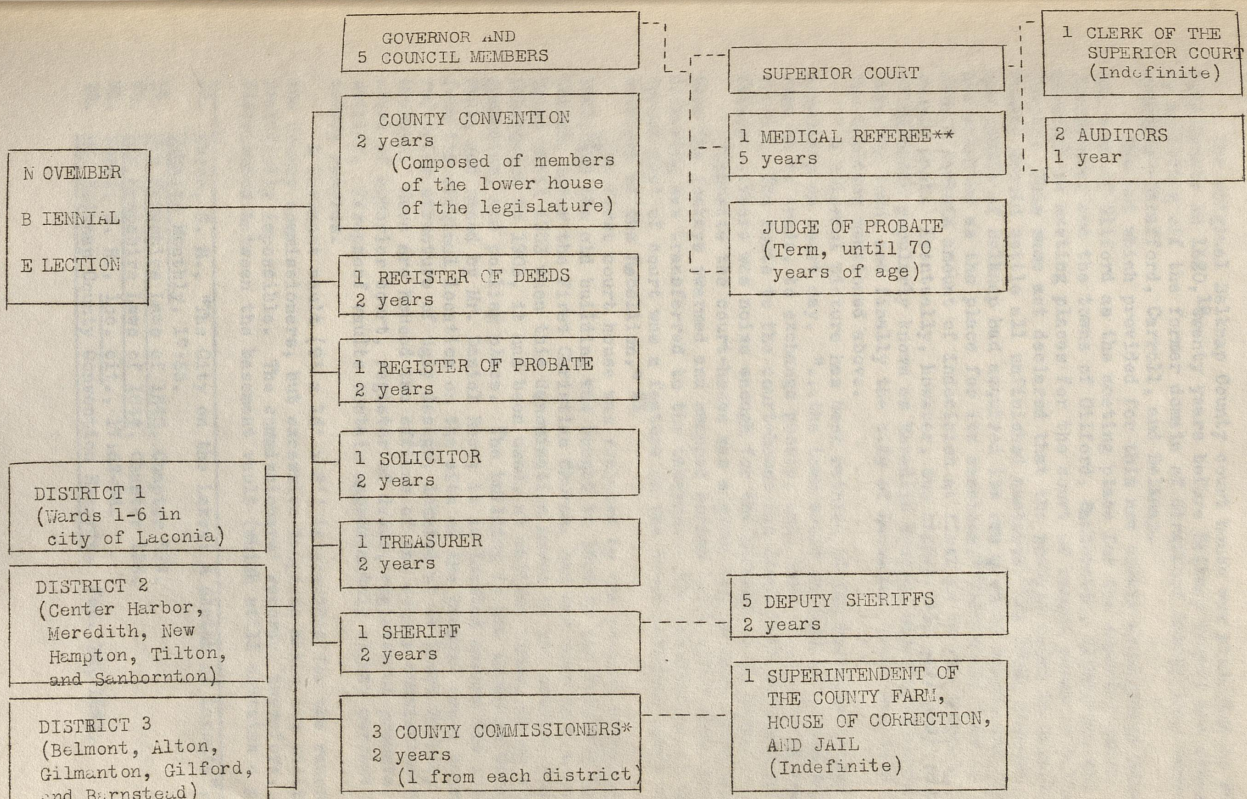
SETTLEMENT MAP OF BELKNAP COUNTY



-  1714-1739
-  1740-1763
-  1764-1775
-  1776



Elected _____
 Appointed - - - - -



Elected _____
 Appointed - - - - -
 * Elected at November Biennial Election
 ** Appointed by Governor only.

3. HOUSING, CARE, AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE RECORDS

The original Belknap County court house was presented to Strafford County in 1820,¹⁸ twenty years before Belknap County was organized by splitting off the former domain of Strafford County into three counties--Strafford, Carroll, and Belknap.

The act which provided for this new county arrangement selected the town of Gilford as the meeting place for the superior court of judicature, and the towns of Gilford, Sanbornton, Gilmanton, and Meredith as meeting places for the court of common pleas in Belknap County. This same act declared that the probate court in Strafford County should settle all unfinished business.¹⁹ By 1844, however, the new county of Belknap had acquired its own probate court, and Gilford was selected as the place for its sessions.²⁰ This would seem to indicate a certain amount of indecision at first as to the location of the county seat. Eventually, however, the choice fell upon that section of Meredith popularly known as Meredith Bridge, which afterwards became the town, and finally the city of Laconia. Court was held in the building mentioned above.

A colorful picture has been painted of the Meredith Bridge community on court day. "...the town would be full of people who had come in to trade, to exchange gossip, and, last of all, to attend court....The route to the court-house was lined with peddlers and fakers....there was noise enough for the passage of an army...

"Opposite the court-house was a grove and an open space adjacent. Here the jockeys swarmed and swapped horses until after dark when the dickering was transferred to the taverns....The celebration of the 'great day' of court was a feature on the local calendar until the outbreak of the Rebellion."²¹

The first court house was replaced by the present structure in 1893;²² and the old building was bought in 1894 by the People's Christian Church, later the First Christian Church, and was used as a meeting house until 1903 when this denomination moved to its present quarters. Subsequent to 1903, it had been used, at various times, as an armory, gymnasium, and polling place. The building is now known as Carnival Hall, and owned by Mr. Daniel Rowe; it is located across the street from its original location on the site of the present court house, a red brick structure of ugly design, located at 64 Court Street, Laconia. Here are housed the offices of the county commissioners, clerk of superior court, register of deeds, register of probate, and sheriff. Fireproof vaults contain approximately eighty percent of the county records.

A basement vault (9' x 16' x 8') is provided for the records of the county commissioners, but excessive dampness makes its utilization practically impossible. The commissioners' records, therefore, are distributed between the basement vault (which still contains a portion

18. Moses, G. H., "The City on the Lakes: A Sketch of Laconia", Granite Monthly, 17:65.

19. New Hampshire Laws of 1840, Chapter 539.

20. New Hampshire Laws of 1844, Chapter 133.

21. Moses, G. H., loc. cit., 17:62-96.

22. MS. Belknap County Convention Records, Feb. 28, 1893.

of the older records) a basement storeroom, the sheriff's office, and the commissioners' office. With the exception of an iron safe in the sheriff's office, facilities for the proper storage and safe keeping of the commissioners' records are lacking. The basement storeroom offers sufficient space, but is extremely dusty and not fireproof. Many of the records in the commissioners' office are piled in bookcases and on the closet floor. There are no accommodations for users. The commissioners maintain a separate relief office in the basement of the court house, and about seventy-five percent of the relief records are located here, the balance, are in the commissioners' office.

The superior court records are housed in the clerk's office vault (15' x 10' x 8'). It is electrically lighted and clean, but poorly ventilated and somewhat congested. A portion of the treasurer's and sheriff's records are also kept here. A steel table has been provided as an accommodation for users.

The register of deeds is forced to share a common vault (16' x 16' x 8') with the register of probate. File boxes from each office are placed back to back to form the partition. Entrance to each section of the vault is gained only through doors from the respective offices. The register of deeds' section is electrically lighted, poorly ventilated, and extremely crowded. There is no room for expansion. Two tables have been provided as accommodations.

The register of probate shares the same congested conditions as does the register of deeds. A small shelf in the vault and a large table outside have been provided for users. There is no room for expansion.

The sheriff's records are divided between the clerk of superior court's vault, the basement storeroom, and the sheriff's office. An iron safe (4 2/3' x 3 3/4' x 2 2/3') is provided for the records in the sheriff's office.

The records of the county treasurer are perhaps the most widely dispersed of any officer. The major records are kept in the commissioners' office, the sheriff's office safe, and the treasurer's private office; the others are stored in the vault and storeroom of the basement.

The Belknap County farm, house of correction, and jail administration building serves as the second major county depository. The Belknap County delegation, in 1852, passed a resolution for the purchase of a farm where the county poor might be provided for, and where if it should prove feasible, a jail might be built for the care of prisoners.²³ On January 12, 1853, the county secured the farm known as the Danforth Place or the Stephen Boynton Homestead.²⁴ From time to time the county continued to buy land in the vicinity of the original purchase.²⁵ It is probable that the jail was built at the time the farm was purchased, as the securing of a site for a jail was one of the reasons for the purchase of the farm.

On November 23, 1871, a fire started in one of the county barns. At the time, a strong wind was blowing, and, as a result, the flames

23. MS. Belknap Records (Minutes of County Conventions, etc.), 1852.

24. MS. Belknap Records (Deeds, Leases), 20:507 (1853).

25. *Ibid.*, 38:552 (1863); 55:136 (1872); 58:146 (1875); 77:179 (1887); 101:517 (1889); 211:295, 297 (1934).

were carried to other buildings. The principal structures, except the jail, were destroyed.²⁶ Rebuilding operations began in 1872, and continued into 1873.²⁷ Additions were made in 1901, 1915, and 1924. The county convention voted the construction of a new jail in 1916.²⁸ Some outbuildings were burned in 1935,²⁹ but neither the main structure nor its additions were affected by these fires.

The central structure consists of an administration building, with four wings, one of them a jail. Except for the brick jail, the buildings are not fireproof, but have connection with the Laconia water system and all contain hose. They are located on the outskirts of the city on the road leading from Laconia to Meredith Center.

Records are located in the superintendent's office, situated on the first floor, southwest corner of the administration building. This office has steam heat, is well lighted, and is equipped with a safe (6' x 9' x 17') and a file box (9" x 6" x 15"). Persons consulting the records may avail themselves of a flat-top desk and chairs. They must be accompanied by the superintendent.

Recommendations. The facilities for keeping the records of the county commissioners are inadequate, due primarily to dampness of the county commissioners' vault in the basement of the court house. This vault, in its present condition, is of little use. The difficulty could be remedied, however, without the construction of a new vault, since it is possible to make the present one damp proof. It is necessary that the commissioners should have a dry vault for the proper housing of past records. Their current records are kept in good condition in an office that is being modernized with steel cabinets and cupboards. A safe, or vault, should be provided for concentrated storing of the sheriff's records, now in three places. The records of the county treasurer are even more widely dispersed than are those of the sheriff. The vault of the register of probate is adequate for the present, but this officer will soon need additional space for his records. A rearrangement of records is all that is necessary for providing additional space in the thoroughly modern vault of the clerk of the superior court. The vault of the register of deeds is totally inadequate. At the present time, this vault is divided and is used also by the register of probate. It might be advisable to give over the entire vault to one of these offices, and build a new one for the other office.

The safe used by the superintendent at the county farm is outmoded, and should be replaced by a new and larger one. Another card file is needed in the superintendent's office.

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26. The Laconia Democrat, November 30, 1871; Lake Village Times, November 23, 1871.
 27. The Laconia Democrat, May 30, 1872; Lake Village Times, Feb. 15, 1873.
 28. MS. Belknap County Convention Records, Feb. 25, 1916.
 29. Laconia Evening Citizen, June 4, 1935; August 21, 1935.

4. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS, SYMBOLS, AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

alph.....	alphabetical(ly)
approx.....	approximately
arr.....	arranged (arrangement)
aver.....	average
ba.....	basement
chron.....	chronological(ly)
hdw.....	handwritten (in ink)
ibid.....	ibidem (in the same place)
id.....	idem (the same; the same as above)
L.....	Library
MS(S).....	Manuscript(s)
N. H. H. S.....	New Hampshire Historical Society
no(s).....	number(s)
off.....	office
p.....	page
pp.....	pages
pr.....	printed
Supt.....	Superintendent
v.....	vault
vol(s).....	volume(s)
--.....	to date
.....	passim (here and there; everywhere)

Exact title of records are written in solid caps without parentheses. In the absence of titles, descriptive titles have been assigned, which are written in solid caps and enclosed in parentheses. If a record title is not descriptive of the contents of the record, an assigned explanatory title, written with initial caps and enclosed in parentheses, has been added.

Figures or letters in parentheses, following the number of volumes or file boxes, indicate the labeling of a record.

Cross references between entries are used to guide a user to prior, intermediate, subsequent or related records.

Unless the index is self-contained, an entry for the index immediately follows its record entry. Cross references are given for exceptions to this rule.

A general index to a series of records always precedes the records.

When a series consists of more than one volume, it is understood that the average number of pages is given.

Measurements are always given in inches, unless otherwise indicated, and, therefore, the symbol ("") has been omitted.

Unless otherwise specified, it is to be assumed that the record is in good condition.

C. COUNTY OFFICES AND THEIR RECORDS

I. COUNTY CONVENTION

When the territory now composing Belknap County was a part of Strafford County, this section was naturally represented by the Strafford County Convention (delegation), but when Belknap became a separate county, the act of incorporation provided for a Belknap County convention.³⁰

1. BELKNAP COUNTY (Delegation Records), 1878--. 5 vols.

1847-51, 1855-77 lost; 1842-46, 1852-54, in entry 107.

Minutes of meetings of county delegation: date, time and place of meeting, list of members present and election of officers; action taken in regard to finances, county officials and county buildings; and recommendations of county commissioners, and all other matters pertaining to county. 1 duplicate vol., 1915-34. Chron. arr., no index. 1878-99, hdw.; 1900--, hdw. and typed, pasted in. 250 pp. $10\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{3}{4}$. 1878--, 4 vols. ba. v., Secretary of State; 1915-34, 1 vol. off. sheriff.

II. COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The office of county commissioners had not been established when the county was set off, but came into being seventeen years later (1857).³¹ Since 1931, commissioners in Belknap County have been elected by districts rather than at large. District 1 consists of wards 1 to 6 inclusive in the city of Laconia; district 2, the towns of Center Harbor, Meredith, New Hampton, Sanbornton, and Tilton; and district 3, the towns of Belmont, Gilmanton, Barnstead, Alton, and Gilford.³² Records are kept in the basement vault, relief office, sheriff's office, and commissioners' office, county court house; and in the public library, Laconia, and the State Library, Concord.

Minutes and Reports

2. BELKNAP COUNTY REPORTS, 1871--. 66 vols. Prior records and 1872, missing.

Reports of county officers: auditors, county delegation, commissioners, county physician, treasurer, clerk of the superior court, sheriff, solicitor, and superintendent of the county farm. Also, inventory at farm. Departmentally arr., no index. Pr. 50 pp. $9 \times 6 \times \frac{3}{16}$. 1871, 1879, State L., Concord; 1873-78, 1880, City L., Laconia; 1881-1928, ba. v.; 1929--, 8 vols., off. commissioners.

Welfare

(See also entry 61)

3. ACTIVE CASES (Direct Relief,) 1935--. 2 vols. System began 1935.

Direct relief record: case number, name, wife, address, budget, employables, wages, number of children, ages, date, balance of budget, total relief work, work relief, direct relief, check number, provisions: board and care, fuel, rent, light-water-gas, clothing, medical aid,

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30. New Hampshire Laws of 1840, Chapter 539.
31. New Hampshire Register 1857, 55.
32. New Hampshire Laws of 1931, Chapter 134.

miscellaneous, feed and seed. Alph. arr. by towns. No index. Hdw. on pr. forms. 1000 pp. $13\frac{3}{4} \times 10 \times 6$. Off. commissioners.

4. INACTIVE CASES (Direct Relief), 1935--. 1 vol. System began 1935. Last entry 1935. 1933-34 handled by New Hampshire Emergency Relief Administration.

Bolknep County inactive direct relief record: case number, name of man and wife, address, budget, employables, wages, number and ages of children, date, balance of budget, total relief, work relief, direct relief, check number, provisions: board and care, fuel, rent, light-water-gas, clothing, medical aid, miscellaneous, feed and seed. Alph. arr. by names of cases within towns. No index. Hdw. on pr. forms. 500 pp. $13\frac{3}{4} \times 10 \times 3\frac{3}{4}$. Off. commissioners.

5. BELKNAP COUNTY--OPEN AND CLOSED CASES (Relief Applications, Case Histories, Social Service Records), 1935--. 6 file drawers. System started 1935.

Application for aid showing history of applicant, financial and employment status; number in family, requirements of family, certification of accuracy, permits to examine bank accounts, employers' records of wages, and type and amount of aid given; case history: investigator's record of family, housing, and special problems; and New Hampshire Social Service index: name, age, birthplace and occupation of man, wife, and children; different spellings of surname and other names, present address, previous addresses; date, and name of agency. Alph. arr. by names of applicants. No index. Hdw. on pr. forms; case history typed. $10 \times 13\frac{1}{2} \times 26\frac{1}{2}$. Relief off.

6. (FINANCIAL RECORDS OF RELIEF CASES), 1935--. 1 file box. System started 1935.

Financial records of charges against each case: name, address, case number, reimbursed by, soldiers' aid, date, order number, cash, and commodities (food, household necessities, rent or shelter, clothing, fuel, gas, light, water, medical, seed, feed, board and care, other and total), and work relief; at bottom: name, case number, budget, number in family, number single, number employable, and number receiving work relief. Alph. arr. by names of cases. No index. Hdw. on pr. forms. $6\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$. Relief off. For prior records of soldiers' aid, see entry 8.

7. (OLD AGE ASSISTANCE AND AID TO THE BLIND), 1931--. 3 file drawers.

Applications for old age assistance and blind aid, applicant's authorization to furnish financial information; report on applications for old age assistance, supplemental record on application and current case record, report on reinvestigation of recipient of old age assistance, old age assistance financial records; report of changes in old age assistance; grants: report of deaths of recipients of old age assistance, report of uncashed or cancelled checks; refunds or other recoveries on expenditures for old age assistance, report of extra aid authorized, tax record report, settlement and recommendation notice, notice of decision on application, relatives' reports, certification of claims, warrantee deeds, and agreements for reimbursement. Alph. arr. by names of recipients. No index. Hdw. on pr. forms and hdw. $11\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2} \times 26$. Off. commissioners. For prior records of blind aid, see entry 8.

8. AID TO DEPENDENT SOLDIERS AND BLIND, 1889-1920. 1 vol.
1921-30, lost. No prior records kept.

Aid to dependent soldiers and blind: date, town, to whom, purpose, and amount. Chron. arr. under each town for each year. No index. Hdw. 190 pp. 13 x 8 x $\frac{3}{4}$. Off. sheriff.

For subsequent records of aid to blind, see entry 7. For subsequent records of aid to soldiers, see entry 6.

9. DEPENDENT CHILDREN, 1935--. 1 file drawer. System started 1935. Report on case: name of dependent child, case number, place residing, place boarding, person caring for child, name of town, rate per month, changes in rate, and clothing supplemented; child placement report: date, child's name, birth date, name of parents (living or dead), name and address of person placed with, type of placement (boarding house, free home, placed for adoption), terms, and name of town or county responsible; placement in hospital: name of hospital, case number, name, age and address of child, attending physician, relief status, and rate per diem; clothing furnished: date, invoice number, name of debtor, quantity and article, unit paid, and total amount; and correspondence. Alph. arr. by name of child. No index. Typed on pr. forms with reports and correspondence typed. $10\frac{1}{2}$ x $11\frac{1}{2}$ x 25. Relief off.

10. (RENT AND MILK FILE), active file (undated). 1 file drawer.
System began July 1936.

Orange cards (milk): name, address, number in family, name of investigator, number of quarts daily, and from whom; white cards (rent): name, address, name of investigator, amount of rent, and to whom paid. No dates on cards; no proof that cards concern cases 1936-- only. Alph. arr. by names of recipients. No index. Typed. $6\frac{3}{4}$ x 5 x $4\frac{1}{2}$. Off. commissioners.

11. (PAUPER RECORDS, MISCELLANEOUS), 1921-33. 1 vol.

Family record: birth place of man and wife, present and past residence, and names and ages of children; record of aid to poor charged to other counties: date, to whom, amount, date billed, notation if paid; also miscellaneous receipts of rebates from towns for aid, from sales, and from insurance. Chron. arr. No index. Hdw. 128 pp. $13\frac{1}{2}$ x $8\frac{3}{8}$ x $5\frac{1}{8}$. Off. sheriff.

Welfare (financial)

12. (RELIEF ORDERS), Jan. 1935--. 1 file box, 60 bundles. System began 1935.

Type of relief (regular relief, dependent soldiers and children, needy blind), number in family, name and address of vendor, date, order number and commodities to be issued (food, household necessities, rent, clothing, fuel, medicine and other), also certification of receipt of above aid. Alph. arr. by names of cases. No index. Hdw. on pr. forms. File box, 5 x 9 x 13; bundles, $5\frac{3}{4}$ x $8\frac{3}{4}$ x 3. Relief off.

13. (RELIEF ORDERS AND BILLS FROM VENDORS), 1930--. 12 file boxes, 180 bundles (numbered and dated). 1933-35 lost.

Bills from vendors for supplies to court house and to relief cases: date, purchase, and amount; some of the latter have the original relief orders

attached showing information as in entry 12; and investigators' mileage reports: name and address of investigator, date, name and address of families visited, mileage, and amount. Chron. arr. No index. Hdw. on pr. forms, hdw., and typed. File boxes, 7 x $4\frac{1}{2}$ x 14; bundles, 9 x 12 x $2\frac{1}{2}$. Off. commissioners.

14. RECORD OF PAUPERS (Notes due on the County Farm), 1856-95.
1 vol.

Notes due on county farm, Mar. 1856-Mar. 1869: date, to whom, and credited amounts, (amount of payments on interest, principal); paupers adjudged, Sept. 1856-Mar. 1895: date, name, town, amount paid; after Sept. 1861 the amount is not shown. Indexed alph. in front of vol. as N (notes due), and P (paupers adjudged). Hdw. 300 pp. $10\frac{1}{2}$ x 8 x 1. Off. sheriff.
For subsequent records of notes, see entries 21, 93.

Property

15. INVENTORY OF PROPERTY AT COUNTY FARM, 1857-1929. 5 vols.
1876-87, 1904-17, lost. 1857-62 in entry 16.

Itemized inventory of all property at county farm (real and personal) with valuations, listed by departments and summarized. Departmentally arr. No index. 1857-1903, 1922-29, 4 vols., hdw.; 1918-21, 1 vol., hdw. in pencil. 150 pp. 14 x 9 x $1\frac{1}{4}$. Off. sheriff.
For related records, 1871-- , see entry 2.

16. (INVENTORY AND ACCOUNT BOOK-COUNTY FARM), 1857-70. 1 vol.
1863-64 not kept.

Inventory of county farm, 1857-62, entry 15; and accounts, 1865-70, entry 168. Chron. arr., no index. Hdw. 50 pp. $8\frac{1}{2}$ x 7 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Ba. v.

Financial

17. (GENERAL LEDGER), 1935-- . 3 vols. System began 1935.

Receipts: date, source (county taxes, income for county farm, temporary loss, bonds, and all other receipts), amount; payments: date, purpose, and amount for jail and house of correction, operation and maintenance of plant, public welfare (direct relief, old age assistance, blind aid, dependent soldiers and children), salaries and expenses of county officers, care and supplies for court house, superior court (jury payrolls, state vs.-payrolls, counsel fees, stenographer, sheriff, deputies, clerk of court), register of probate, register of deeds, indebtedness (interest and principal on temporary loans and bonds), outlay for construction and equipment, farm bureau, relief administration, Gilford Ski Project, National Youth Administration, Federal Writers' Project, recopying records for register of deeds, Blister Rust Project, Meredith Sawing Project, rebuilding county farm barn, and Laconia Sewing Project. Indexed alph. by items in front of vol. Hdw. 200 pp. $10\frac{1}{2}$ x $8\frac{3}{4}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$. Off. sheriff.

For prior related records, see entries 18, 19.

18. LEDGER (Financial and Case Records of Poor off Farm),
Jan. 2, 1926-Dec. 12, 1934. 1 vol. Discontinued.

Miscellaneous receipts: date, from whom received, purpose, and amount;
payments: date, to whom paid and amount; and case histories: name of
case, number of dependents, address, and physical disability (if any).
Partially indexed alph. by names of cases in front of vol. Hdw. 128 pp.
13½ x 8½ x ½. Off. sheriff.

For prior related records see entry 19. For subsequent related
records, see entry 17.

19. JOURNAL (Record of Payments), 1865-97. 2 vols.

Record of payments made by county commissioners: name of town, voucher
number, to whom paid, purpose, and amount. At end of year there is a
recapitulation by towns showing total expenditures for each town and
total expenses of county, signed by commissioners and certified by
auditors. Alph. arr. by towns. No index. Hdw. 350 pp. 14 x 9 x 1½.
Ba. v.

For subsequent related records, see entries 17, 18.

20. JOURNAL (Record of Orders Drawn on the Treasurer), May 1882-
Dec. 25, 1895. 3 vols. No prior records kept; discontinued.

Orders drawn on the treasurer: order number, date, to whom, purpose, and
amount. Chron. and numerically arr. by order nos. No index. Hdw.
215 pp. 13½ x 8 x 1. V.

21. (RECORD OF NOTES), 1870-1900. 1 vol. 1899-- in entry 93.

Number, date, time and rate, amount, to whom payable, authorized by, when
due, interest paid (date, amount), principal paid (date, amount), and
remarks. Chron. arr., no index. Hdw. on pr. forms. 50 pp. 10½ x 8 x 1½.
V.

For prior related records, see entry 14.

III. CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

The act that incorporated Belknap County provided for a superior
court of judicature³³ which was abolished in 1855 in favor of the supreme
judicial court.³⁴ In 1874, the former court reappeared "instead of the
supreme judicial court heretofore existing".³⁵ The supreme court
succeeded the superior court of judicature, however,³⁶ in 1876 and continued
until 1901 when the present superior court appeared³⁷ and supplanted the
supreme court which lost its county affiliation and became a state court.
Consequently, the supreme court became the highest present-day court in
the state.³⁸ Except for 10 file boxes of correspondence in the basement
storeroom, all records are kept in the clerk's office vault.

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33. New Hampshire Laws of 1840, Chapter 539.
34. New Hampshire Laws of 1855, Chapter 1659.
35. New Hampshire Laws of 1874, Chapter 97.
36. New Hampshire Laws of 1876, Chapter 25.
37. New Hampshire Laws of 1901, Chapter 78.
38. New Hampshire Manual for the General Court 1917, 187.

Judicial

(See also entries 152, 162)

22. (General) INDEX, EQUITY-STATE-CIVIL-SESSION-LAW TERM CASES (Plaintiff and Defendant), 1841--. 6 vols., 8 file boxes. (6 dated vols., 1841-1930; 8 undated file boxes, 1931--).

Alph. arr. index to equity, state, civil, session, and law term cases: names of plaintiffs and defendants, docket number, entered (term and year), and judgment (vol. and page). Hdw. and typed on pr. forms. Vols., 300 pp. $18\frac{1}{2}$ x $12\frac{1}{4}$ x 2; file boxes, $3\frac{1}{2}$ x $5\frac{1}{2}$ x 13.

23. (Official) DOCKET, 1841--. 123 vols. (dated).

Civil, state, equity, and session dockets: date and term of court, jury trial number, docket number, names of jurors, names of plaintiff and defendant, solicitors, case history, verdict, and disposition. Indexed alph. by names of plaintiffs and defendants in front of vols.; also, for index, see entry 22. Hdw. on pr. forms. 150 pp. $13\frac{1}{2}$ x $8\frac{3}{4}$ x $\frac{1}{4}$. For related records 1906-34, see entry 153.

24. (Waste) DOCKET, 1856--. 138 vols. (dated). Prior records and 1858-62, 1868-74 lost.

Civil, equity, state, and session dockets: date and term of court, officers of the court, official stenographers, list of Belknap County Bar, list of jurors, jury trial number, docket number, type of case, names of plaintiffs and defendants, solicitors, brief history of case, and verdict rendered. Indexed alph. by names of plaintiffs and defendants, some located in front, a few in rear; also, for index, see entry 22. Hdw. on pr. forms. 150 pp. $6\frac{1}{2}$ x $3\frac{1}{2}$ x 1.

25. JUDG(E)MENTS, 1841--. 26 vols. (1-26, dated).

Court judgments: date and term of court, docket number, names of plaintiff and defendant, solicitors, indictment, offense, plea, verdict, and disposition. For index, see entry 22. 1841-1905, hdw.; 1906--, typed. 600 pp. 17 x 12 x 3.

26. CIVIL CASES, 1841--. 123 file boxes (1-9426, 1841-90; 1-9219, 1886--).

Original court documents in civil actions: (Appeals), entry 35; (Verdicts), entry 42; (Trustees' Depositions), entry 47; (Inquiry, Contest, and Adjustment of Title), entry 50; (Auction Sale of Attached Property), entry 52; (Writs of Possession), entry 55; (Writs of Injunction), entry 57; (Writs of Attachment), entry 58; (Writs of Execution), entry 59; (Writs of Replevin), entry 60; (Appointments of Referees), entry 86; (Witness Fees), entry 95; (Attorney's Appearance Slips), entry 102; (Copies of Court Trials), entry 106; (Agreements), entry 115; and (Appraisals), entry 116. For index, see entry 22. Hdw., typed, and hdw. and typed on pr. forms. $10\frac{3}{4}$ x $4\frac{3}{4}$ x $13\frac{1}{2}$.

Clerk of the Superior Court--Judicial

BELKNAP
(27-30)

27. STATE CASES, 1841--. 28 file boxes (1-2187),

Original court documents in state cases (regular and appealed); Appeals showing information as in entry 35; (Recognizance), entry 36; (Summons), entry 37; (Subpoena), entry 38; (Complaint and Warrant), entry 39; (Mittimus), entry 40; (Indictments), entry 41; Verdicts showing information as in entry 42; (Defendants' and Plaintiffs' Exhibits), entry 49; (Capias Writs), entry 56; Writs of execution showing information as in entry 59; (Petitions for Information), entry 77; (Payrolls), entry 92; Witness fees showing information as in entry 95; (Bail Bonds), entry 104; and (Copies of Court Trials), entry 106. For index, see entry 22. Hdw., typed, and hdw. and typed on pr. forms. $10\frac{3}{4} \times 4\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.

28. EQUITY CASES, 1839--. 59 file boxes (1-687, 10 file boxes, 1839-90; 1-3914, 49 file boxes, 1871--). Title varies: LAW TERM CASES.

Original court documents in equity cases: appeals showing information as in entry 35; summons showing information as in entry 37; subpoena showing information as in entry 38; verdicts showing information as in entry 42; (Amendments), entry 44; (Bills in Equity), entry 45; (Libel for Divorce), entry 46; (Affidavits), entry 48; inquiry, contest, and adjustment of title showing information as in entry 50; (Mortgage Foreclosures), entry 51; (Adjustment of Partnership Accounts), entry 53; (Disputed Wills and Codicils), entry 54; writs of possession showing information as in entry 55; writs of injunction showing information as in entry 57; writs of attachment showing information as in entry 58; writs of execution showing information as in entry 59; writs of replevin showing information as in entry 60; (Marriage Petitions), entry 67; (Appointment of Receiver), entry 87; bail bonds showing information as in entry 104; and (Agreements), entry 115; also contains session case records 1918--, entry 29. For index, see entry 22. Hdw., typed, and hdw. and typed on pr. forms. $10\frac{3}{4} \times 4\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.

29. SESSION CASES, 1839-1917. 5 file boxes (1-372). 1918--, in entry 28.

Original court documents in session cases: (Damage Awards), entry 43; (Petitions for Highways), entry 68; (Petitions for Continuance of Highways), entry 69; (Petitions for Damages Against Town), entry 70; (Petition for Right of Eminent Domain), entry 71; (Petition for Laying Out of Railroads), entry 72; (Nuisance Petitions), entry 78; inquiry, contest, and adjustment showing information as in entry 50; and writs of injunction showing information as in entry 57. For index, see entry 22. Hdw., typed, and hdw. and typed on pr. forms. $16\frac{3}{4} \times 4\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.

For related records of roads 1841-54, see entry 96.

30. VENIRES, 1841--. 6 file boxes (dated).

Court order to town or city clerk that jurors must be drawn, showing date, name of town, number of jurors to be drawn (grand and petit), date and place of court to which jurors must report. The returns: attest of town or city clerk that jurors have been drawn and notified, giving: date, time and place of drawing, place where notice was posted, number of jurors drawn, and notification to those drawn. Chron. arr., no index. Hdw. on pr. forms. $10\frac{3}{4} \times 4\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.

Clerk of the Superior Court--Judicial

BELKNAP
(31-39)

31. JURY LISTS, 1858--. 1 file box.

Name, date, and term of court, names and addresses of grand and petit jurors. Chron. arr., no index. Hdw. and hdw. on pr. forms. $10\frac{3}{4} \times 4\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.

32. (SPECIAL JURY), 1850--. In entry 108.

Date, term, and place of court, number of jurors to be drawn from each town, and signature of presiding justice.

33. MUNICIPAL COURT APPEALS, 1928-31. 1 file box. Discontinued.

Copies of cases appealed to the Superior Court: date of appeal, name of court from which appealed, cases appealed, and copies of notices to municipal courts of receiving and entering appeals. Chron. arr., no index. Typed on pr. forms. $10 \times 5 \times 14$.

For prior and subsequent related records, see entries 26-28.

34. MUNICIPAL COURT APPEALS, NON-ENTRY, 1928--. 1 file box.

Prior records not kept.

Non-entered municipal court appeals: date, name of town, names of principals and sureties, name of justice, account of bond, term of court. Also writs of execution showing information as in entry 59; complaint and warrant showing information as in entry 39; and writs of attachment showing information as in entry 58. Chron. arr., no index. Typed on pr. forms. $10 \times 4\frac{1}{2} \times 14$.

35. (APPEALS), 1841--. In entry 26.

Date, names of plaintiff and defendant, particulars, order to transfer to a higher court, signature of presiding justice, and attest of court clerk.

For related records 1839--, see entries 27, 28.

36. (RECOGNIZANCE), 1841--. In entry 27.

Date, name and term of court, state vs. name of defendant, name of state witness, name of surety, amount of bond, conditions and limitations of the action, signature of witnesses, attest of clerk of court.

37. (SUMMONS), 1841--. In entry 27.

Date, time and place of court, name and address of plaintiff and defendant, conditions of and reasons for summons, signature of clerk of court.

For related records 1839--, see entry 28.

38. (SUBPOENA), 1841--. In entry 27.

Name and address of witness; time, place, and date of court; conditions of the subpoena, date issued, and signature of clerk of court.

For related records 1839--, see entry 28.

39. (COMPLAINT AND WARRANT), 1841--. In entry 27.

Date, names of complainant and respondent, complaint in detail, sworn to and attested by complainant and witnesses before justice of peace, order to bring respondent before court (showing date, place, and time of court). Outside of warrant shows verdict, judgment (fines, costs, or imprisonment), and disposition.

For related records 1928--, see entry 34.

40. (MITTIMUS), 1841--. In entry 27.

Order to sheriff (deputy sheriff or police officer) to transfer prisoner to house of correction or jail, showing: complaint, date, by whom issued, court, disposition, time, costs, commitment, court order to sheriff to convey prisoner to house of correction or jail, date of order, signature of clerk of court, attest of officer that conveying order has been carried out, and statement of fees (including costs for service, travel, conveyance, copy, and mittimus).

For related records 1931--, see entry 163.

41. (INDICTMENTS), 1841--. In entry 27.

Name, date, and term of court; name and address of defendant, detailed description of the charge, attest and signatures of the county solicitor and foreman of the jury of a true bill.

42. (VERDICTS), 1841--. In entry 26.

Plaintiffs' and defendants' verdicts: name, date, and place of court; names of plaintiff and defendant, findings, assessment of damages if any, and signature of foreman.

For related records 1839--, see entries 27, 28.

43. (DAMAGE AWARDS), 1839-1917. In entry 29.

Date, to whom, purpose, and amount.

44. (AMENDMENTS), 1839--. In entry 28.

Date and name of court, names of parties concerned, and court instructions to jury.

45. (BILLS IN EQUITY), 1839--. In entry 28.

Date, names of plaintiff and defendant, charges and contents of bills, signature of plaintiff's solicitor, and attest of court clerk.

46. (LIBEL FOR DIVORCE), 1839--. In entry 28.

Date, names of libellant and libelee, charges of libel, signature of libellant's attorney, and attest of court clerk.

47. (TRUSTEES' DEPOSITIONS), 1841--. In entry 26.

Name, date, and place of court; names of plaintiff and defendant, name of trustee, time writ served, description of defendant's property in hands of trustee at time writ was served, and attest of trustee as to correctness.

48. (AFFIDAVITS), 1839--. In entry 28.

Date, name of petitioner, conditions and particulars, and oath of petitioner.

49. (PLAINTIFFS' AND DEFENDANTS' EXHIBITS), 1841--. In entry 27.

Date, term and place of court; name of plaintiff and defendant, and designation and description of exhibits.

50. (INQUIRY, CONTEST, AND ADJUSTMENT OF TITLE), 1841--. In entry 26.

Date, names of principals, conditions and particulars, court order, and attest of clerk of court.

For related records 1839--, see entries 28, 29.

51. (MORTGAGE FORECLOSURES), 1839--. In entry 28.

Date, names of principals, conditions and limitations, and court order of approval.

52. (AUCTION SALE OF ATTACHED PROPERTY), 1841--. In entry 26.

Date, to whom sold, list of articles sold, and amount received.

53. (ADJUSTMENT OF PARTNERSHIP ACCOUNTS), 1839--. In entry 28.

Date, names of principals, and summary of accounts approved.

54. (DISPUTED WILLS AND CODICILS), 1839--. In entry 28.

Date, names of parties concerned, official court interpretation of the will and codicil.

Writs

55. (WRITS OF POSSESSION), 1841--. In entry 26.

Date, names of plaintiff and defendant, term of court, amount of judgment rendered, costs of court, and the command to cause plaintiff to have possession of premises and to have paid to the creditor the amount in judgment at lawful interest or to arrest debtor and commit to jail until discharged by creditor or otherwise by law.

For related records 1839--, see entry 28.

56. (CAPIAS WRIT), 1841--. In entry 27.

Name, date, and term of court; return of grand jury; names of plaintiff and defendant; charge; order to arrest the defendant and bring before the court: date and term of court prisoner held for.

57. (WRIT OF INJUNCTION), 1841--. In entry 26.

Date, names of plaintiff and defendant, with conditions and particulars of restraining order from court.

For related records 1839--, see entries 28, 29.

58. (WRITS OF ATTACHMENT), 1841--. In entry 26.

Date, names of plaintiff and defendant, term of court returnable, amount of attachment, reasons for attachment, sworn to under oath, and order for defendant to appear in court to answer charges (giving date, time, and place of court); and sheriff's return (showing date, particulars, and expense involved).

For related records 1839--, see entries 28, 34.

Clerk of the Superior Court--Welfare

BELKNAP
(59-64)

59. (WRITS OF EXECUTION), 1841--. In entry 26.

Date, names of plaintiff and defendant, term of court, judgment, order to sheriff to attach property in the amount of judgment, court returnable, and signature of clerk.

For related records 1839--, see entries 27, 28, 34.

60. (WRITS OF REPLEVIN), 1841--. In entry 26.

Date, description of articles taken, names of plaintiff and defendant, conditions of writ, amount of bond, order for defendant to be brought to court, and return of writ.

For related records 1839--, see entry 28.

Welfare

(See also entries 3-11)

61. (PAUPER STATUS), 1850--. In entry 108.

County commissioners request of court for civil status of paupers: name of pauper, town deemed liable, and court decision.

Naturalization

62. NATURALIZATION, 1846-Sept. 1906. 3 file boxes (1-483).

Declarations of intention and petitions for naturalization: date, name, and place of court; name and address of petitioner, civil status, length of residence in the United States, signature of petitioner; deposition of witnesses as to character and residence of petitioner: names and addresses of witnesses and petitioners, oaths of witnesses; renunciation of prior allegiance, and oath of allegiance to the United States; order of court admitting petitioner to citizenship: date, name, and place of court; names of petitioner and witnesses; name of presiding justice; attest of clerk of court. Hdw. on pr. forms. $10\frac{3}{4} \times 4\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.

For subsequent records, see entries 64, 65.

63. RECORD (Index to Naturalization Records), 1842-1906. 2 vols.

1 vol. shows name of petitioner with file box reference; other vol. shows file box reference, name of petitioner, residence, date of declaration, date notice filed, and date of admittance to citizenship. One vol. alph. arr. by names of petitioners; other vol. consecutively arr. by case numbers. Hdw. 170 pp. $14 \times 9 \times \frac{3}{4}$.

64. DECLARATION OF INTENTION (Naturalization), Nov. 1906--. 8 vols., 1 file drawer (one-six; 6 vols.; 1906-July 19, 1924; VII, VIII, 2 vols., July 24, 1924-May 1929; 1 unnumbered file drawer, July 1929--).

First papers: date, name, time, and place of court; applicant's name, age, date and place of emigration, marital status, and declaration of intention to renounce prior allegiance. Indexed alph. by names of applicants in front of vols. Hdw. on pr. forms. Vols., 100 pp. $9 \times 6 \times 1$; file drawer, $12 \times 8 \times 20$.

For prior records, see entry 62.

65. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR - DIVISION OF NATURALIZATION -
PETITION AND RECORD, 1907--. 5 vols. (1-5).

Second papers: name, residence, occupation, personal description of applicant, date and place emigrated from, port of arrival, date and place of declaration of intention, marital status, renunciation of prior allegiance, length of time resident of United States, statement as to other petitions made, affidavit of witnesses, oath of allegiance of petitioner, signature of petitioner, and court order admitting petitioner to citizenship. Indexed alph. by names of petitioners in front of vols. Hdw. on pr. forms, 50 pp. 18 x 11 x $\frac{3}{4}$

For prior records, see entry 62.

Petitions and Licenses

66. PETITION FOR PERMISSION FOR PERSONS BELOW AGE OF CONSENT TO
CONTRACT MARRIAGE, 1928--. 1 file box. Prior records not kept.

Date, name and address of contracting parties, date and term of court when petition was entered; exceptions (age waivers), conditions and particulars of the exception, parents' signatures, decree on petition, signature of justice. Chron. arr., no index. Hdw. on pr. forms. 10 x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 14.

67. (FIVE DAY MARRIAGE WAIVER), 1850--. In entry 108.

Date, names and addresses of contracting parties, date and term of court when petition was entered; exceptions (time waiver), conditions and particulars of the exception, decree on petition, and signature of justice.

68. (PETITIONS FOR HIGHWAYS), 1839-1917. In entry 29. 1918-- in
entry 28.

Date, names of petitioners, description of proposed highway, and summons for selectmen to appear at court.

69. (PETITION FOR CONTINUANCE OF HIGHWAYS), 1839-1917. In entry 29.
1918-- in entry 28.

Date, names of petitioners, description of highway, and detailed account of reasons why road should be kept open or why gates and bars should be removed from the highway.

70. (PETITIONS FOR DAMAGES AGAINST TOWNS), 1839-1917. In entry 29.
1918-- in entry 28.

Date, names of petitioners, particulars of the petition, amount of damage, and court action.

71. (PETITIONS FOR RIGHT OF EMINENT DOMAIN), 1839-1917. In entry 29.
1918-- in entry 28.

Date, name of town, city, or state making petition, conditions and reasons for same, description of the property involved, and court action.

72. (PETITIONS FOR LAYING OUT RAILROADS), 1839-1917. In entry 29.
1918-- in entry 28.

Date, names of petitioners, conditions and reasons for petition, approval of railroad commissioners, and award of land damages.

73. PETITION FOR DISCHARGE AND ORDER (House of Correction), 1927--.
1 file box. No prior records kept.

Date, name of superior court justice, name of petitioner, place of detention, offense, sentenced by, sentence, date of committment, reason for committment, signature and oath of petitioner, approval of county solicitor and detention officer, court action on petition (approval or disapproval), and signature of superior court justice. Chron. arr., no index. Hdw. and typed on pr. forms. $10\frac{3}{4} \times 4\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.

74. (PETITIONS TO ALLOW PRISONER TO ATTEND FUNERAL OF RELATIVE), 1850--. In entry 108.

Date, name of prisoner, place of detention, name of deceased relative, particulars of the petition, signature of prisoners' counsel, and decree on same.

75. PETITION FOR SECURITY, 1927-36. 1 file box. Prior records missing; discontinued. 1930-35 not kept.

Petitions for damage awards, 1927-30: names of petitioner, date, particulars; 1936 petition for release from New Hampshire State Hospital: name and residence of inmate, names of petitioners, date of hearings, appointment of masters to examine inmate, masters' report of findings, masters' bills for services rendered (date, purpose, and amount). Chron. arr., no index. Typed on pr. forms. $10 \times 4\frac{1}{2} \times 14$.

76. (PETITIONS FOR BAIL COMMISSIONERS), 1850--. In entry 108.

Date and term of court, names of city or town requesting appointment, particulars of petition, and signatures of petitioners.

77. (PETITIONS FOR INFORMATION), 1841--. In entry 27.

Name, date, time and place of court; name of county solicitor; name and address of defendant; offense (unlawful possession, transportation, selling or keeping for sale large quantities of intoxicating liquor); date of offense; signature of solicitor; and plea of defendant.

78. (NUISANCE PETITION), 1839-1917. In entry 29.

Date and term of court, names of plaintiff and defendant, complaint, court action.

79. BELKNAP RECORD - DEPUTY SHERIFFS AND PEDDLERS - FROM JANUARY 1841, 1841--. 4 vols.

Sheriffs' appointments of deputies, 1841--; showing information as in entry 150. 1855-84, copy of peddlers' licenses granted by other counties, showing information as in entry 80; and copy of treasurers' receipt of license fee, 1841--: date, name of peddler, amount of fee, signature of treasurer, date recorded, and signature of clerk of court. Chron. arr., no index. 1841-45, hdw.; 1846--; hdw. on pr. forms. 200 pp. $13\frac{1}{2} \times 10 \times 1$.

80. (PEDDLERS' LICENSES), 1841-46. In entry 107.

Date, name of peddler, reasons for and conditions of license, signature of peddler, and attest of clerk of court.

For related records 1855-84, see entry 79.

Clerk of the Superior Court

BELKNAP
(81-89)

Elections and Appointments

81. RETURN OF VOTES, 1841--. 5 file boxes (dated).
Names of offices and candidates, number of votes cast for each by towns, total number of votes cast for each candidate and for each office, attest of town clerk as to correctness of the return. Chron. arr., no index. Hdw. and typed on pr. forms. $10\frac{3}{4} \times 4\frac{3}{4} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$.
82. RECORD OF VOTES, BELKNAP COUNTY, 1875--. 1 vol. 1841-53, 1875 in entry 107.
Record of votes cast for county officers showing information as in entry 81, and in addition: names and oaths of office of elected officials, court approval of returns, and attest of clerk of court. Chron. arr., no index. Hdw. on pr. forms. 200 pp. $13\frac{3}{4} \times 9 \times 1\frac{3}{4}$.
83. (CERTIFICATIONS OF ELECTION), 1850--. In entry 108.
Date, term and place of court, date of election, names of persons elected, and attest of clerk of court.
84. APPOINTMENTS - COURT ORDERS (County Officers), 1877--.
1 file box.
Appointment of ballot inspectors, auditors, treasurer, county solicitor: name of appointee, enrollment date, attest of clerk of court; oath of appointee. Chron. arr., no index. Hdw., and hdw. and typed on pr. forms. $10 \times 5 \times 14$.
For prior and related appointments of ballot inspectors 1850--, see entry 85.
85. (APPOINTMENT OF BALLOT INSPECTORS), 1850--. In entry 108.
Date, names of six voters, names of town, petition to appoint ballot inspectors, and names of suggested appointees.
For related records 1877--, see entry 84.
86. (APPOINTMENT OF REFEREES), 1841--. In entry 26.
Date, name and place of court; name of presiding justice, name and address of plaintiff, defendant, and referee. Instructions to the referee, and signatures of solicitors and clerk of court.
87. (APPOINTMENT OF RECEIVER), 1839--. In entry 28.
Date, name, residence, and conditions of receivership.
88. (ASSIGNMENT OF JUSTICES), 1850--. In entry 108.
Date, name of chief justice of supreme court, request to assign a justice to the superior court, reasons for same, date and place of assignment, and decree on same.
89. OFFICIAL OATHS, 1883--. 1 file box.
Oaths of office taken by elected and appointed officials before justice of the peace or clerk of court: affirmation to bear faith and allegiance to State of New Hampshire and Constitution thereof, and affirmation to faithfully and impartially discharge duties of the office; attest of clerk of court or justice of peace. Chron. arr., no index. Hdw. and typed on pr. forms. $10\frac{5}{8} \times 4\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.
For related records 1850--, see entry 108.

Financial

90. CLERKS' VOUCHERS - BILLS PAID BY CLERK (Received Bills and Jury Payrolls), 1841--. 3 file boxes,
Received bills: date, to whom, purpose, amount, signature of presiding justice; jury payrolls: date and term of court, names and addresses of jurors, mileage, fees for travel and attendance, and total expense. Records filed in envelopes showing term of court when paid. Chron. arr., no index. Hdw. and typed on pr. forms. 10 x 4½ x 14.
91. ACCOUNT BOOK, 1859--. 4 vols., Prior records lost. Debits (date, source, and amount); credits (date, purpose, amount); attest of clerk of court. 2 duplicate vols., 1859--. Chron. arr., no index. Hdw. 258 pp. 13½ x 8½ x 1.
92. (PAYROLLS), 1841--. In entry 27. Name and address of payee, purpose, amount, court approval, signature of clerk of court, name, date, and place of court.
93. RECORD OF NOTES - BELKNAP COUNTY, 1899--. 1 vol. County treasurers' authorization to borrow money: date, time and place of court, purpose, considerations involved, signatures of the county commissioner, county treasurer, justice of court, and clerk of court, and court action on the authorization; record of notes: date, consideration involved, rate of interest, signatures of commissioner and county treasurer; date recorded by clerk of court; record of payments on note: interest and principal paid (date and amount). Chron. arr., no index. Hdw. and typed on pr. forms. 250 pp. 10½ x 10 x 2½.
For prior records of notes, see entry 21. For related prior records of notes 1856-95, see entry 14. For authorization to borrow money 1841-42, see entry 107.
94. COMMISSIONERS' BILLS, 1887-1932. Prior records lost; discontinued. Bills for mileage, services, and general expenses: date, purpose, and amount, signature and oath of commissioner, approval of justice, and auditors' certification. Chron. arr., no index. Hdw. on pr. forms. 10 x 4½ x 14.
95. (WITNESS FEES), 1841--. In entry 26. Bills rendered by witnesses for travel and court attendance showing date, time and place of court; names of plaintiff and defendant, names of witnesses and for whom they testified, witness fees for travel and attorney, number of miles traveled, days of attendance, and total charges; all sworn before a justice of the peace or a notary public.
For related records 1841--, see entry 27.

Roads

96. BELKNAP RECORDS, ROAD FROM JANUARY 1841, 1841-54. 1 vol. discontinued.
Petitions to court for establishment of highways, reports of road commissioners, judgment of the court; road commissioner bills occasioned by their duties: date, purpose, amount. Chron. arr., no index. Hdw. 300 pp. 15½ x 10 x 2½.
For records 1839-1917, see entry 29.

Certificates

97. ATTORNEYS' OATHS - STUDENT CERTIFICATES - RESOLUTIONS, 1844-99. 1 file box. Discontinued.
(Attorney's Oaths), entry 98; (Student Certificates), entry 99; (Bar Admittances), entry 100; and resolutions of memorials to the families of deceased justices. Chron. arr., no index. Hdw. and hdw. on pr. forms. 10 x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 14.
98. (ATTORNEY'S OATHS), 1847-76. In entry 97.
Oath of allegiance to constitution of State of New Hampshire, affirmation to discharge duties to best of ability in accordance with the principles of justice and decency.
99. (STUDENT CERTIFICATES), 1878-99. In entry 97.
Statements by attorney and by student, that latter has entered the former's law office, giving date of entry and signatures of attorney and student.
100. (BAR ADMITTANCES), 1878-99. In entry 97.
Certificate of attorney's admittance to the bar: date, name of attorney, court admitting.
101. (CHARACTER CERTIFICATES), 1850--. In entry 108.
Date, name of person whose character is being attested, name and address of reference.
102. (ATTORNEY'S APPEARANCE SLIPS), 1841--. In entry 26.
Docket number, names of plaintiff and defendant, signatures of the solicitors, date entered, signature of clerk of court.

Administration

103. OFFICIAL BONDS, 1841--. 1 file box.
County officers' indemnity bonds: name and address of bonding company, name of person bonded, name of county, account of bond, date, conditions of bond, signatures of principals, company officials and counsel. Chron. arr., no index. Hdw. and typed on pr. forms. 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$.
104. (BAIL BONDS), 1841--. In entry 27.
Name of person bonded, name of surety, amount and conditions of bond, name of county in whose favor bond is drawn, signatures of surety officers and witnesses.
For related records 1839--, see entry 28.
105. (RESIGNATIONS), 1850--. In entry 108.
Date, name of county officer tendering resignation, office held, date effective, signature of officer.
106. (COPIES OF COURT TRIALS), 1841--. In entry 26.
Record of complete testimony taken at trial.
For related records 1841--, see entry 27.

Clerk of the Superior Court--Administration

107. BELKNAP RECORDS (Authorization to Borrow Money - Peddlers' Licenses - Record of Votes - County Convention Minutes), 1841-75. 1 vol.
(Peddlers' Licenses), entry 80; minutes of county delegation, 1842-46, 1852-54, entry 1; and return of votes for county officers, 1841-53, 1875, entry 82; and county treasurer's authorizations to borrow money, 1841-42, showing information as in entry 93. Chron. arr., no index. Hdw. 250 pp.
 $13\frac{3}{4} \times 8\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{3}{4}$.
108. CORONERS' INQUESTS, RAILROAD, MISCELLANEOUS, 1850--. 1 file box. Prior records lost; discontinued.
(Special Jury), entry 32; (Pauper Status), entry 61; (Petitions for Marriage), entry 67; (Petitions to Allow Prisoner to Attend Funeral of Relatives), entry 74; (Petitions for Bail Commission), entry 76; (Certification of Election), entry 83; (Appointments of Ballot Inspectors), entry 85; (Assignment of Justices), entry 88; (Character Certificate), entry 101; (Resignations), entry 105; (Coroners Inquests), entry 109; (Parole from Asylum), entry 110; (Orders for Allowance), entry 111; (Railroad Damages), entry 112; and oaths of officials showing information as in entry 89. Chron. arr., no index. Hdw., typed, and hdw. on pr. forms. 10 x 5 x 14.
109. (CORONERS' INQUEST), 1850--. In entry 108.
Order to make inquest into the death, showing name of deceased, place body held, reasons for inquest, signature of official ordering the inquest; copy of autopsy report showing date, name of deceased, description of findings, signature of physician performing autopsy (or medical referee). Coroner's report giving testimony taken at inquest.
110. (PAROLE FROM ASYLUM), 1850--. In entry 108.
Date, name of inmate, signature of petitioner, correspondence from town or city officials as to advisability of parole, recommendations from interested parties, and decree on same.
111. (ORDERS FOR ALLOWANCE), 1850--. In entry 108.
Order to increase salary: date, name of office, amount of increase, limitations of increase.
112. (RAILROAD DAMAGES), 1850--. In entry 108.
Affidavit to railroad commissioners (Public Service Commission): date, description of land to be taken by eminent domain to build railroads, record of posting notice, decree on same, and damage awards.
113. POWER OF ATTORNEY - REVOCATION, 1907--. 1 file box. Prior records lost. Last entry 1933.
Date, name of appointee, for whom acting, conditions, date, signature of clerk of court. Letter of revocation is attached when necessary. Chron. arr., no index. Typed on pr. forms. 10 x $4\frac{1}{2}$ x 14.
114. JAILOR'S REPORT, 1857-1911. 1 file drawer. No prior records kept; discontinued.
List of prisoners submitted by jailor at each term of superior court: name of prisoner, offense, sentence, reason for and date of discharge. Chron. arr., no index. Hdw. on pr. forms. 10 x $4\frac{1}{2}$ x 14.

115. (AGREEMENTS), 1841--. In entry 26.
Date, name of parties concerned, conditions of agreement, signatures of parties and witnesses.

For related records 1839--, see entry 28.

116. (APPRAISALS), 1841--. In entry 26.
Date, names of appraisers, property appraised itemized with evaluation.

117. LETTERS (Correspondence - Clerk of Court), 1908--. 10 file boxes, 2 file drawers (10-19, 10 file boxes, 1908-20; 2 un-numbered file drawers, 1921--). Prior records destroyed.
Official correspondence of the clerk of court. 1908-20, chron. arr.; 1921--, alph. arr. by names of correspondents. No index. Hdw. and typed. Boxes, 12 x 12 x 3; drawers, 11 x 13 x 26. 1908-20, storeroom; 1921--, v.

IV. JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

When Belknap County was established there were justices of the peace in eight of the Belknap County towns. Of these, Center Harbor had the smallest number, with three, one of them a justice of the quorum, the other two, justices throughout the state; Gilmanston had the largest number, with seven justices of the quorum, and forty-six justices throughout the state.³⁹ At the present time, none of the Belknap County towns have the office of justice of the peace; and no past records have been found.

V. REGISTER OF DEEDS

This office began with the inception of the county⁴⁰ and has continued without break. All records are kept in the office vault.

Deeds

118. BELKNAP RECORDS (Deeds, Leases), 1841--. 227 vols.
(1-142, 144-228).

Warranty, mortgage, quitclaim, foreclosure, and tax collectors' (deeds, assignments, transfers, leases, discharges, redemptions of mortgages, and notices of foreclosure): date, names of principals, description of property, conditions and particulars of the instrument, sworn to and attested by the principals; tracings, blueprints, and maps and plans of land layouts, subdivisions, and boundaries; 1909--, tax collectors' sales and redemptions of property sold for taxes; all have signature of and date recorded by register. Hdw. and typed on pr. forms. 600 pp. 18½ x 12½ x 3.

For related tax sales 1908--, see entry 127. For related records of redemptions 1915--, see entry 128.

39. New Hampshire Register 1842, 50-52.

40. New Hampshire Laws of 1840, Chapter 539.

Register of Deeds--Writs

BELKNAP
(119-126)

119. INDEX TO RECORDS, GRANTOR, GRANTEE, 1841--. 12 vols.,
9 file boxes (A-Z).

Index to entry 118 showing grantor, grantee, vol. and page reference, instrument, date recorded, location, and date discharged. Alph. arr. by name of grantor and grantee. Hdw. on pr. forms, 1841-96; typed on pr. forms, 1896--. Vols., 500 pp. $18\frac{1}{2}$ x $12\frac{1}{2}$ x $2\frac{1}{2}$; file boxes, 4 x 6 x 2.

120. (Index to Deeds Granted by) BANKS, 1935--. 1 file drawer.
System began 1935.

Index to entry 118 showing names of grantor and grantee, date and type of instrument, consideration involved, vol. and page reference, and location. Alph. arr. by names of banks granting deeds. Typed on pr. forms. 4 x 6 x 21.

121. ENTRY (Book), 1917--. 4 vols. (dated). Prior records destroyed. Entry book: received (month, day, year, hour), names of grantee and grantor, location, date and type of instrument; delivered (to whom, address, and date); and vol. and page reference to entry 118. Chron. arr., no index. Hdw. 1917-24, 520 pp., $16\frac{1}{2}$ x 12 x $2\frac{1}{2}$; 1925--, 300 pp., $16\frac{1}{2}$ x 13 x $2\frac{3}{4}$.

Writs

122. (Index to Writs of) ATTACHMENTS, 1911--. 2 vols. (2-3).
Index to writs of attachment entries 123-124 showing record of attachments: number, names of plaintiff and defendant, time when received (month, day, year, hour), returnable (court, term, year), attorney, ad damnum, and released (when, by whom, remarks). Alph. arr. by names of plaintiffs. Hdw. on pr. forms. 250 pp. $17\frac{1}{2}$ x 12 x $1\frac{1}{2}$.

123. WRITS (of) ATTACHMENT, 1911--. 5 file boxes (1-4595).
Law passed 1911.

Copies of writs of attachment showing information as in entry 58. Also, date recorded by register. Numbered and filed as received. For index, see entry 122. Hdw. and typed on pr. forms. 10 x 5 x 14.

124. ATTACHMENTS DISCHARGED, 1911--. 2 file boxes.
Discharged writs of attachment showing information as in entry 58. Also, date and time recorded and discharged by register; and plaintiffs' notices as to satisfaction of judgment. For index, see entry 122. Hdw. and typed on pr. forms. 10 x 5 x 14.

Plans

125. BELKNAP RECORDS (plans), 1839--. 4 file drawers, 1 vol. (143).
Records of tracings, blue prints, maps and plans of land lay-outs, boundaries and sub-divisions, to deeds of entry 118. Blue prints and drawings. File drawers, 18 x 9 x 67; vol., 500 pp. $16\frac{1}{2}$ x $11\frac{1}{2}$ x $3\frac{1}{2}$.

126. (Index of) PLANS, 1839--. 1 file drawer.
Index to entry 125 showing name of owner, description of property, plan number, drawer number or vol. and page reference, date of instrument, and location of property. Alph. arr. by names of grantees. Typed on pr. forms. 4 x 6 x 21.

Taxation

127. (Records of) TAX (Sales), 1908--. 3 vols. (dated).
System began 1908.

Tax collectors' sales of land for delinquent taxes: name and address of owner, description, amount of tax, interest and costs, register's fees, totals, purchaser and redeemed by; also advertisement record: name of owner, description, acres, value, and tax. Alph. arr. by towns; chron. within towns. No index. Typed. 600 pp. $18\frac{1}{2}$ x $15\frac{1}{2}$ x 3.

For related records 1909--, see entry 118.

128. TAX COLLECTOR'S REDEMPTIONS-TAX COLLECTOR'S PAPERS, 1915--. 3 file boxes.

Tax collector's records of redemptions of taxes: owners' names, description, total tax and costs, name of purchaser, date of sale, redeemed by, date, and signature of tax collector with date. Chron. arr. No index. Hdw. and hdw. on pr. forms. 10 x 5 x 14.

For prior and related records of redemptions 1909--, see entry 118.

Miscellaneous

129. BELKNAP RECORDS (Army, Navy, and Marine Discharges), 1920--.
1 loose leaf vol. Prior records not kept.

Recorded copy of United States Army, Navy, and Marine discharges: description of the dischargee, enlistment record, type of service, and date. Records temporarily removed from Belknap Records Vol. 160. Typed and typed on pr. forms. 500 pp. $16\frac{1}{2}$ x $11\frac{1}{2}$ x $2\frac{1}{2}$.

130. (Index to Army, Navy, and Marine Discharges), 1920--.
1 file box.

Index to entry 129 showing United States Army, Navy, and Marine dischargee, date recorded, vol. and page reference, to whom delivered, and date delivered. Alph. arr. by names of dischargees. Hdw. on pr. forms. 10 x 5 x 14.

VI. REGISTER OF PROBATE

Both the judge and register of probate date from the organization of the county⁴¹. There has been no break in the succession. All records are in the office vault.

Probate Records

131. (General) INDEX-BELKNAP COUNTY RECORDS, 1841--. 2 vols.,
3 file drawers (2 dated vols., 1841-1924; A-Z,
3 file drawers, 1925--).

General index to probate records showing name of case, type of instrument, docket number, date instruments filed, and vol. and p. reference. Alph. arr. by names of cases. Hdw. on pr. forms. Vols., 500 pp. 18 x 13 x 3; file drawers, $4\frac{1}{2}$ x 6 x 16.

41. Ibid., Chapter 539.

132. PROBATE RECORDS-DOCKET-BELKNAP COUNTY, 1841--. 8 vols. (1-8). Brief history of each case handled by the probate court showing docket number, name of case, town, date and types of instruments filed, and names of probate agents concerned. For index, see entry 131. Hdw. 500 pp. 16 x 11 x 3.

133. (ORIGINAL PROBATE DOCUMENTS), 1841--. 334 file boxes (1-14448). Original probate documents: (Divisions and Partitions), entry 135; (Release of Dower (Curtsey) and Homestead), entry 136; (Assignment of Real Estate), entry 137; (Waiver of Wills), entry 138; (Widows' Allowances), entry 139; (Adoption and Change of Name), entry 140; (Bonds), entry 141; and inventories, wills, accounts, receipts, and licenses showing information as in entries 144, 146-149, respectively; and all other probate matters. For index, see entry 131. Hdw., typed, and hdw. and typed on pr. forms. 11 x 5 x 16.

134. PROBATE RECORDS-DOWER, HOMESTEAD, PARTITION, DIVISION (Assignment of Real Estate, Waiver of Wills, Widows' Allowances), 1856--. 5 vols. (10, 12, 19, 32, 49). (Divisions and Partitions), entry 135; (Release of Dower (Curtsey) and Homestead), entry 136; (Assignment of Real Estate), entry 137; (Waiver of Wills), entry 138; and (Widows' Allowances), entry 139. For index, see entry 131. Hdw. and typed on pr. forms. 500 pp. $16\frac{1}{2}$ x $11\frac{1}{2}$ x $2\frac{3}{4}$. For original records 1841-- , see entry 133.

135. (DIVISIONS AND PARTITIONS), 1841--. 1841-- in entry 133; 1841-55 also in entry 150; 1856-- also in entry 134. Date, name and address of estate, date of decease of testator, authorization to partition, names of heirs at law notified, date, time and place of partition, names of those objecting (if any), description of property set off, signatures of committee, and probate action.

136. (RELEASE OF DOWER (Curtsey) AND HOMESTEAD), 1841--. 1841-- in entry 138; 1841-55 also in entry 150; 1856-- also in entry 134. Date, name of widow or widower, conditions and purpose of release, description of estate with reference to deed, and oath of petitioner.

137. (ASSIGNMENT OF REAL ESTATE), 1841--. 1841-- in entry 133; 1856-- also in entry 134. Name and location of estate, date of decease of testator, date of notification by committee of persons concerned, date, time, and place of assignment, signatures of committee, and probate action.

138. (WAIVER OF WILLS), 1841--. 1841-- in entry 133; 1856-- also in entry 134. Name of person waiving will, conditions and purposes of waiver, date, and signature and oath of petitioner.

Register of Probate--Reports

BELKNAP
(139-144)

139. (WIDOWS' ALLOWANCES), 1841--. 1841-- in entry 133;
1841-50 also in entry 150; 1851-71, also in entry 142;
1856-- also in entry 134.

Name of widow, name of deceased, request for temporary support, signature of widow, and probate action.

140. (ADOPTION AND CHANGE OF NAME), 1841--. In entry 133.

Name of county, names and address of intended foster parents, name and address of child and its legitimate parents, place and date of birth of child, statement of ability of intended foster parents to care for child, consent for adoption and change of name given by legitimate parents, and signatures of intended foster parents, parents of the child, and witnesses. Petition by adult for change of name: name of county, name and address of petitioner, reason for wishing change, name desired, place and length of residence, place and date of birth, and name of parents. Also, dates of filing and granting, and probate action.

141. (BONDS), 1841--. In entry 133.

Names of surety and probate agent, condition and amount of bond, person bonded, signatures of parties concerned, dates of filing and recording, and probate action.

Reports

142. PROBATE RECORDS-COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS-WIDOWS' ALLOWANCES, 1851--. 2 vols. (6, 48). 1841-50 in entry 150. (Commissioners' Reports), 1851-68, 1935--, entry 143; (Widows' Allowances), 1851-71, entry 139. For index, see entry 131. Hdw. on pr. forms. 500 pp. 16½ x 11½ x 2½.

For original widows' allowances 1841--, see entry 133. For related widows' allowances 1856--, see entry 134. For commissioners' reports 1869-1934, see entry 149.

143. (COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS), 1841--. 1841-50 in entry 150;
1851-68, 1935-- in entry 142; 1869-1934 in entry 149.

Date, authorization, name and address of estate, name and date of newspaper containing notice of same, date and place of posting of similar notices, distributive shares as assigned by commissioners to each creditor, and probate action.

Property

144. PROBATE RECORDS INVENTORIES-BELKNAP COUNTY, Oct. 1857--.
15 vols. (5, 17, 24, 30, 33, 35, 38, 41-43, 45, 53, 54,
57, 60). 1841-56 in entry 150.

Date, court authorization and order to take inventory, name of estate, itemized schedule of real and personal property with appraisers' valuation, signatures and oaths of appraisers, declarations (oath)

Register of Probate--Wills

BELKNAP
(145-147)

of administrator or acting probate agent regarding completeness of inventory, probate of inventory, date filed and recorded, and signature of register. For index, see entry 131. 1857-Aug. 1915, hdw. on pr. forms; Sept. 1915--, typed on pr. forms. 500 pp. $16\frac{1}{2}$ x $11\frac{1}{2}$ x $2\frac{1}{2}$.

For original records 1841--, see entry 133.

145. (REAL ESTATE TRANSFER RECORD), 1934--. 2 file drawers.
Prior recording not required.

Dual record of real estate willed and devised in probated wills. One card shows name of devisee, residence, docket number, name and location of estate, date of death of testator, and description of real estate; other card shows name and location of estate, date of death of testator, docket number, description of estate, and names and addresses of devisees. Alph. arr. by names of estates. No index. Typed on pr. forms. $4\frac{1}{2}$ x 6 x 16.

Wills

146. PROBATE RECORDS--WILLS--BELKNAP COUNTY, 1854--. 15 vols.
(8, 13, 14, 16, 20, 22, 26, 31, 36, 37, 40, 44, 50, 52, 56).
1841-56 in entry 150.

Written statement of the disposition of a person's property (real and personal) after his decease naming the devisees with description and conditions of legacy dated and signed by testator and three disinterested witnesses; declaration by one or more of the witnesses regarding the mental condition of the testator at the time the will was drawn, made when the will is offered for probate; and date of probate, and probate on same. For index, see entry 131. Hdw. and typed on pr. forms. 500 pp. $16\frac{1}{2}$ x $11\frac{1}{2}$ x $2\frac{3}{4}$.

For original records 1841--, see entry 133.

Financial

147. PROBATE RECORDS--ADMINISTRATORS, EXECUTORS, GUARDIANS, AND
INSOLVENT ACCOUNTS, 1854--. 11 vols. (4, 9, 11, 18, 23,
25, 28, 39, 51, 55, 59). 1841-54 in entry 150.

Name of estate, date of death of testator, itemized list of all assets and expenditures with amount of each, total amount of receipts and expenditures, and balance; and court certificate regarding notice to heirs at law and other interested parties for exhibition of account by probate agent showing date, time, probate on same, and date recorded. Insolvency accounts show in addition: date, docket number, name of case, town, petition or assignment filed, orders for hearing, date of decree, warrant issued, name of assignee, names of sureties, schedule of creditors, debts filed, property filed, and order of distribution; declaration of debtor conveying all assets to be proportioned amongst creditors, signatures of witnesses, and oath of debtor; court order declaring debtor insolvent, order to file inventory of creditors, name of messenger, date and place of meeting of creditors for selection of assignee; and probate on same. For index, see entry 131. Hdw. on pr. forms, 1854-Nov. 1922; typed on pr. forms, Dec. 1922--. 500 pp. 16 x $11\frac{1}{2}$ x $2\frac{1}{2}$.

For original records 1841--, see entry 133.

Sheriff

BELKNAP
(148-151)

148. PROBATE RECORDS--LEGATEES RECEIPTS--BELKNAP COUNTY, 1897-1934. 2 vols. (27, 34). No prior copying required; discontinued.

Copies of receipts from legatees: name of testator, docket number, date, amount, purpose of receipt, and signature of legatee. Alph. indexed by names of testators in front of vols. Also, for index, see entry 131. Hdw. 500 pp. 16 x 11 x 2.

For original records 1841--, see entry 133.

149. PROBATE RECORDS--GUARDIANS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND EXECUTORS LICENCES TO SELL AND MORTGAGE REAL ESTATE (Real and Personal Estates), 1851--, 7 vols. (7, 15, 21, 29, 46, 47, 58). 1841-50, entry 150.

Administrators, guardians (minor and insane), trustees and conservators petitions and licenses to sell and mortgage or convey as per contract real and personal estates (including securities); petition: date entered, name of probate agent, name of estate, date of death of testator, and reasons for request of licence in full; license: name of petitioner, location of estate, name of probate agent, condition of and reason for license, description of property to be (sold, conveyed or mortgaged), date, and signature of judge; oath of probate agent; certificate of agent relative to posting notices as required by law: date, place, time of posting of notice, and name and date of newspaper in which advertised; certificate of sale: date, time, place, type of sale (private, public or public auction), name of buyer, description of property conveyed, amount of sale, date filed and recorded, and signature of register; also (Commissioners' Reports), 1869-1934, entry 143. For index, see entry 131. Hdw. on pr. forms. 600 pp. 16 x 11 x 3.

For original records 1841--, see entry 133.

150. (Miscellaneous) PROBATE RECORDS--BELKNAP COUNTY, 1841-May 1856. 3 vols. (1-3).

(Divisions and Partitions), 1841-55, entry 135; (Release of Dower (Curtsey) and Homestead), 1841-55, entry 136; (Widows' Allowances), 1841-50, entry 139; (Commissioners' Reports), 1841-50, entry 143; and inventories, 1841-56, entry 144; wills, 1841-56, entry 146; accounts, 1841-54, entry 147; and licenses, 1841-50, entry 149. For index, see entry 131. Hdw. 600 pp. 16 x 11 x 2.

For original records 1841--, see entry 133.

VII. SHERIFF

The act of incorporation (1840) provided for a sheriff for Belknap County.⁴² At present he appoints five deputies. Records are kept in the sheriff's office, the vault of the clerk of court, and the basement storeroom.

151. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY SHERIFFS, BELKNAP COUNTY, 1846--.
3 vols. (dated).

Record of appointments of deputy sheriffs showing name of appointee, date of appointment, oath of appointee, and signatures of sheriff and appointee. Chron. arr., no index. Hdw. on pr. forms. 200 pp. 14 x 10 x 1 1/2. V.

For prior and related records 1841--, see entry 79.

⁴² Ibid., Chapter 539.

Medical Reference

BELKNAP
(152-155)

152. (BELKNAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S ACCOUNTS), 1859--. 1 vol. No prior records kept. Accounts of sheriff and deputies, court expenses and fees, and expense of committment of prisoners to jail showing date, term, to whom, what for, and amount. Chron. arr., no index. Hdw. 200 pp. 13½ x 9 x 1. Off.
153. BELKNAP DOCKET (Sheriff's Copy), 1906-34. 34 vols. (dated). Oct. 1919, Oct. 1922, and Oct. 1927 missing. Docket of the superior court, Belknap County court term; court officers (list of justices and officers of court giving office held, name and residence); date of court session for year; attendance (month, year, name of justice, days, attendance and date of judgment; list of members of Belknap County Bar (name, residence, telephone number, and date of admittance); sheriffs and deputies by counties (name, residence and telephone number); superior court-assignment of justices (date, place and name); naturalization days (date, county, and place); alphabetical list of the members of the New Hampshire Bar (name, telephone number, and residence); civil, equity, state, and sessions docket (docket number, names of plaintiff and defendant, solicitors for each, and brief history of case); and pages for memoranda of trials (jury trial number, docket number, names of jurors, date and time trial began and ended, and verdict). Alph. indexed by names of plaintiffs according to type of case in back of vols. Fr. 250 pp. 6½ x 4 x ½. Storeroom. For related records 1841-- , see entry 23.

VIII. MEDICAL REFEREE

In 1842 there were eight coroners in Belknap County.⁴³ Since 1903, the coroners have been replaced by a single medical referee,⁴⁴ who also acts as county farm doctor. Records are kept in the private office of the Attorney-General and in the basement, State House, Concord.

154. (INDEX TO REPORTS OF MEDICAL REFEREES), 1911--. 5 file boxes. (A-Z). Index to medical referees' reports of all counties showing name of deceased, date of report, and number or name of folder in which report is filed. Alph. arr. by names of deceased. Typed. 4 x 5½ x 16. Off.
155. CO. SOLICITOR, BELKNAP CO. (Records of Medical Referees), 1911--. 1 folder in file drawer, 1 packing case. Prior records not kept. Report of medical referee to county solicitor. Record of autopsy: name of state and Attorney-General, reason for autopsy, name and age of deceased, supposed cause of death, authority to perform autopsy, when made (day,

43. New Hampshire Register, 1842, 52.

44. New Hampshire Laws of 1903, Chapter 134.

Solicitor

BELKNAP
(156)

time, month, and year), witnesses (name and residence), description of clothing, body markings, condition of (chest, abdomen, head), pathological findings, and cause of death; record of articles taken from body: date, name of referee, name of county, name of deceased, place of death, description of property, signature and address of relative, and signature of witnesses; record of referee's expenses: name of deceased, autopsy (time, place, and date), circumstances of death, to whom body delivered, statement of expenses (itemized), and signature of medical referee; and record of inquisition: date, time and place of inquisition, name of medical referee, name and address of deceased, referee's findings as to cause, date of death, and signature of referee. Survey not permitted to examine packing case containing records 1911-25. For index, see entry 154. Hdw. and typed on pr. forms. Folder, 10 x 13 in file drawer, 11 x 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 25 $\frac{3}{4}$. 1911-25, 1 packing case, ba.; 1926-- , 1 folder, off: "

IX. SOLICITOR

The office of solicitor has continued in unbroken succession since 1842.⁴⁵ No records are kept.

For annual reports, see entry 2.

X. TREASURER

A county treasurer was set up by the act of incorporation for Belknap County (1840)⁴⁶ and this office has continued to date. Most of the records are kept in the commissioners' office, the sheriff's office safe, and the treasurer's private office; the remainder are stored in the vault and storeroom of the basement.

Financial

156. BELKNAP COUNTY-TREASURER'S CASH BOOK, April 1933-- . 2 vols. 1927-March 1933 in entry 157; 1841-1909 in entry 159.

Receipts: taxes, other, total receipts, bank deposits, and date; payments: date, name, particulars, check number, amount, county farm, poor off farm (Laconia, Meredith, Tilton, other towns), aid to soldiers and their families, board and care of children, old age assistance (county, city, towns), aid to needy blind, jail, hospital, county officers (salaries, expenses), care and supplies for court house, superior court expenses (jury payrolls, state vs. _____ payrolls, counsel fees, stenographer, clerk of superior court, sheriff and deputies), registers of deeds and probate, outlay for construction and equipment, indebtedness (principal, interest), farm bureau, and all other payments

45. New Hampshire Register, 1842--.

46. New Hampshire Laws of 1840, Chapter 539.

Auditors

(amount, account). Chron. arr., no index. Hdw. on pr. forms. 1000 pp. $19\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{3}{4}$. 1933-34, off. sheriff; 1935-- , off. commissioners.

157. BELKNAP COUNTY PAYMENTS, July 1927-March 31, 1933. 4 vols. Payments: date, name, particulars, voucher numbers, totals, county farm, county farm repairs, jail, dependent children, farm bureau, needy blind, county officers, court house, registers of deeds and probate, aid to soldiers by towns, medical referee, court house equipment, miscellaneous, and totals. Chron. arr., no index. Hdw. on pr. forms. 200 pp. $14\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$. Off. sheriff.

For prior records, see entry 158.

158. (ACCOUNT BOOK), 1841-1909, 4 vols. 1910-June 1927, missing. Accounts of county treasurer showing debits: date, order number, to whom, purpose, and amount; and credits: date, from whom, purpose, and amount. Chron. arr., no index. Hdw. 500 pp. $14 \times 9 \times 1\frac{3}{4}$. V.

For subsequent records, see entry 157.

159. (RECORD OF INDEBTEDNESS), 1931-- . 10 vols. No prior records kept.

Name of bank, date, amount, percent of interest, date due, and date of payment. Chron. arr., no index. Hdw. 60 pp. $10 \times 7\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}$. Off. treasurer.

Miscellaneous

160. (CANCELLED CHECKS), 1932-- . 11 file boxes (3 undated file boxes, 1932-34; 8 dated file boxes, 1935--). Prior records destroyed; July 1934-July 1935, missing.

Cancelled checks showing number, date, to whom payable, amount, and signatures of county commissioners. Chron. and numerically arr., no index. Hdw. on pr. forms. $4\frac{1}{4} \times 8 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$. 3 file boxes, 1932-34, ba. v.; 8 file boxes, 1935-- , storeroom.

161. (CHECK STUBS), Dec. 21, 1934-- . 57 pads. Prior records destroyed.

Check number, date, to whom payable, purpose, and amount. Chron. arr., no index. Hdw. on pr. forms. $10\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$. 1934- Nov. 1936, 45 pads, storeroom; Dec. 1936-- , 12 pads, off. commissioners.

XI. AUDITORS

County auditors were not established by law until 1872.⁴⁷ There is authentic evidence that Belknep County had this office by 1878 at least.⁴⁸ Records are kept at the vault of the clerk of superior court.

47. New Hampshire Laws of 1872, Chapter 43.

48. MS. Belknep County Records, 1878.

Superintendent of the County Farm--Judicial

BELKNAP
(162-165)

162. AUDITOR'S REPORTS, 1897--. 1 file drawer. Prior records lost.

Semi-annual reports of auditor with certification as to correctness of accounts; also county commissioners' reports of all paid bills: date, to whom, and amount; and exceptions (unpaid). Chron. arr., no index. Typed. 10 x 4½ x 14.

For annual reports, see entry 2.

XII. SUPERINTENDENT OF THE COUNTY FARM

The exact date of the establishment of the above office is difficult to determine, but it can be asserted, without danger of contradiction, that an officer called "superintendent" had charge of the county farm as early as 1873, though he did not make a report until 1875.⁴⁹ Records are kept at the superintendent's office, county farm; and at the sheriff's office, court house.

Judicial

(See also entries 22-54, 153).

163. MITTIMUS, 1931--. 7 bundles. Prior records destroyed. Order to sheriff, deputy sheriff, or police officer to transmit prisoner to house of correction or jail: complaint, date, by whom issued, court, deposition, fines, costs, committment, order by court to sheriff to convey said prisoner to house of correction, date of order, signature of clerk of court, attest of conveying officer that said prisoner had been conveyed as ordered, and statement of fees (costs for service, travel, conveyance, copy, and mittimus). Chron. arr., no index. Typed on pr. forms. 9½ x 3½ x 1½. Off. supt.

Administration

164. PRISONERS ADMITTED - BELKNAP COUNTY, 1897 - June 1931.

1 vol. Prior records destroyed. July 1931-- in entry 166. Date, name, age, nationality, where from, what for, length of sentence, fine, costs, male or female, marital status, absconded, returned, paid fine and costs, weeks, days, number of times committed, time expires, and discharged. Chron. arr., no index. Hdw. on pr. forms. 200 pp. 17¼ x 14½ x 1½. Off. supt.

165. PAUPERS ADMITTED - COUNTY ALMS HOUSE, 1862 - June 1931.

1 vol. Prior records not kept. July 1931-- in entry 166. Name, age, time admitted, former residence, time discharged, place of destination, number of weeks board, number of days board, and total (weeks, days). Alph. arr. by names of inmates. No index. Hdw. on pr. forms. 500 pp. 14 x 9½ x 2. Off. supt.

49. Belknap County Reports 1873, 1875.

Superintendent of the County Farm--Financial

BELKNAP
(166-169)

166. (PRISONERS AND INMATES - ADMITTED AND DISCHARGED), July 1931--
1 file box, 1 bundle.

Yellow cards, record of prisoners: name, age, sex, alias, marital status, civil state, religion, birthplace, nationality, occupation, color, weight, height, complexion, hair, eyes, face, mustache, beard, scars, ink tatooing, date admitted, where from, police or superior court; number of times admitted, fare and cost paid, length of sentence, fine, cost, time expires, crime, and discharge; blue card, record of children: name, date admitted, age, ward, where from, street number, birthplace, date of birth (year, month, day), color, sex, religion, settlement, parents' (name, birthplace, occupation, religion), address of parents or relatives, telephone number, whom taken by, remarks, boarder, and taken for adoption (no, yes); and white card, record of paupers: name, age, ward, transferred to, date admitted, where from, street number, birthplace, nationality, date of birth (year, month, day), time in United States (years, months, days), settlement, religion, color, sex, husband or wife of, read, write, occupation, father (name, birthplace, occupation), mother (name, birthplace), sent by, brought by, received by, personal effects, address of relatives, telephone number, board (weeks, days), boarder or pauper, died, and discharged. Alph. arr. by names of prisoners and inmates. No index. Hdw. on pr. forms. File box, 6 x 9 x 17; bundle, 5 x 8 x 5. Off. supt.

167. (WOOD BOOK), 1934--. 2 vols. (I, II, dated). No prior records kept.

List of all deliveries of wood to county cases away from farm, showing name, address, date, and amount of wood delivered. Chron. arr., no index. Hdw. in pencil. 125 pp. 16 x 7 x 1. Off. supt.

Financial

168. (ACCOUNT BOOK - COUNTY FARM), 1909--. 5 vols. 1865-70 in entry 16.

Receipts: date, from whom, purpose, and amount; and expenditures: date, to whom, and amount. Chron. arr., no index. Hdw. 150 pp. 10 x 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$. 1902-July 24, 1931, 3 vols., off. sheriff; July 25, 1931--
2 vols., off. supt.

169. (CASH BOOK), May 1923-Jan. 31, 1924. 1 vol.

Revenue: date, name, farm produce, board, bills approved and sent to commissioners, other and total revenue; total expense and outlay; and expense: administration (salaries and payrolls, other), operation, maintenance of plant (fuel, water, light and power, cost of equipment except farming equipment, minor repairs of building, and other), farming (cost of equipment, live stock, food for live stock, feed and fertilizer, and other), provisions and clothing, health (medical attendance, funeral expenses), fixed charges (insurance, taxes), and construction and alterations of buildings. Chron. arr., no index. Hdw. on pr. forms. 100 pp. 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$. Off. sheriff.

Miscellaneous

170. (VISITORS' REGISTER), 1898--. 3 vols. Prior records destroyed.
Date, and name and address of persons who had lunch at county farm while visiting. Chron. arr., no index. Hdw. 125 pp. 11 x 8½ x 1. 1898-1930, 2 vols., off. sheriff; 1931--, 1 vol., off. supt.

XIII. SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

A sealer appeared in this county in 1842.⁵⁰ In 1919, the office became a state department.⁵¹ No records have been found.

50. New Hampshire Register 1842, 50.
51. New Hampshire Laws of 1919, Chapter 149, Section 3.

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