

Introduction to the Brookfield Vital Records

These transcribed records represent an initial attempt to make available early vital records of Brookfield, NH. Until this century most of these records have been relatively unavailable at the local level, located in various record books in the town.

These records are not alphabetized, nor do they necessarily follow sequentially by date. They are transcribed literally from the documents, in which case you will find misspellings, lack of punctuation, and other faults. Every effort has been taken to proof this transcription against the original documents.

This project was undertaken around 1998. While there is no index, we hope to have a searchable index to each section of these vital records in the near future. We are always interested in documented corrections and would welcome your input. The burial ground inventory was started in 2009 in an Excel database, using a very old inventory which has not been updated since the 1940s. We hope to eventually be able to provide at least a complete death date for each burial – and hopefully at least some birthdates.

For those of you who have done early vital record research, you are aware that for the most part, municipalities did not necessarily keep death records or birth records in an organized fashion until the mid- nineteenth century. That appears to have been left to the Churches and individual ministers and families and their family bibles. Births were seldom recorded, and as you can see here, when they were recorded, it was as a family record. Marriage intentions were almost always recorded by the town clerk, since they had to be “published” in the town where the bride lived and where the groom lived. But the marriage itself was not always necessarily recorded in the town records. If an ordained minister performed the wedding, it was his responsibility to register the event with the appropriate town clerk.

These records have been published in *The Genealogical Record of Strafford County*, in an effort to make this information more available to a wider audience.

Some vital records are restricted in the State of New Hampshire:

Births, from 1901 – present

Deaths, from 1948 – present

Marriages, from 1948 – present

Divorce, from 1948 – present

For more information, please contact:

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