

Gray, Maine

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Gray is a town in Cumberland County, Maine, United States. The population was 7,761 at the 2010 census.^[4] It is part of the Portland–South Portland–Biddeford, Maine metropolitan statistical area. Gray is home to regional headquarters for the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, which maintains a fish hatchery and wildlife park. It is also home to a Weather Forecast Office for NOAA's National Weather Service,^[5] which issues forecasts and weather warnings for most of New Hampshire and southern Maine.



A clear view of tiny Loon Island on a perfectly calm day on Forest Lake in Gray



Henry Pennell Municipal Complex



Centrally located Monument Square in the heart of Gray Village.



Mayall Mill c. 1908

Gray Maine

Town



A clear view of tiny Loon Island on a perfectly calm day on Forest Lake

Motto: "At the Heart of It All"



Location within the state of Maine

Coordinates: 43°52′56″N 70°21′19″W

Country	United States
State	Maine
County	Cumberland
Incorporated	1778
Area ^[1]	
• Total	45.99 sq mi (119.11 km2)
• Land	43.27 sq mi (112.07 km2)



poison, and then a box with loaded pistols rigged to fire when opened. Suspicious of the packages, Mayall avoided an untimely death. His daughters Mary and Phanela took over the mills when he died in 1831, and built the Lower Mill in 1834. The Mayalls retained ownership until about 1879. The business closed in 1902. The ruins of the mill and associated structures are still visible to this day and are open to the public.^[8]

During the Civil War, a Confederate soldier's body was accidentally sent to Gray. Instead of sending it away, the people of Gray gave it a proper burial and funded a gravestone marked "The Stranger". A statue dedicated to the "Unknown Soldier" was later erected in Gray Village Center. Every year on Memorial Day, the Unknown Soldier is respected with a Confederate flag marking the grave. Gray devoted a lot of emotion and men to the Civil War, having sent proportionately more men to war than any other town in Maine. There are more than 178 Union soldiers and one Confederate buried in the Gray Village Cemetery.^[9]

Geography

According to the United States Census Bureau, the town has a total area of 45.99 square miles (119.11 km²), of which, 43.27 square miles (112.07 km²) of it is land and 2.72 square miles (7.04 km²) is water.^[1] Gray, which includes most of Little Sebago Lake and Crystal Lake, is drained by Collyer Brook. Little Sebago Lake has been experiencing problems with milfoil for years.

Gray has five towns surrounding it: Windham to the southwest, Cumberland to the southeast, North Yarmouth to the northeast, New Gloucester to the north-northeast and Raymond to the northwest and west. On a north-up map, Gray is the shape of a crooked square.

Gray has long been interconnected with its neighbor to the north, New Gloucester, both sharing similar demographics, culture and economy. They are two of the last rural towns in the area, with the Portland urban area to the south and Lewiston–Auburn to the north. Both towns share the same school district, Maine School Administrative District 15. Being in the vicinity these towns are in, there has been ever-increasing suburban development since the early nineties. Subdivisions and commercial developments have been built at an ever-increasing frequency, leading to the possibility of Gray being swallowed up into the surrounding urban and sub-urban areas in the future.^[10] These developments have drawn much protest from residents, many of whom live on the same property as their ancestors many generations ago.

Demographics

2010 census

As of the census^[2] of 2010, there were 7,761 people, 3,156 households, and 2,187 families residing in the town. The population density was 179.4 inhabitants per square mile (69.3/km²). There were 3,841 housing units at an average density of 88.8 per square mile (34.3/km²). The racial makeup of the town was 97.2% White, 0.7% African American, 0.2% Native American, 0.5% Asian, 0.1% Pacific Islander, 0.1% from other races, and 1.2% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 0.9% of the population.

Historical population		
Census	Pop.	%±
1790	577	—
1800	987	71.1%
1810	1,310	32.7%
1820	1,479	12.9%
1830	1,575	6.5%
1840	1,740	10.5%
1850	1,788	2.8%
1860	1,767	−1.2%
1870	1,733	−1.9%

There were 3,156 households of which 30.5% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 56.0% were married couples living together, 9.3% had a female householder with no husband present, 4.0% had a male householder with no wife present, and 30.7% were non-families. 20.9% of all households were made up of individuals and 6.5% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.46 and the average family size was 2.85.

The median age in the town was 40.6 years. 21.3% of residents were under the age of 18; 7.5% were between the ages of 18 and 24; 28.2% were from 25 to 44; 32.2% were from 45 to 64; and 10.8% were 65 years of age or older. The gender makeup of the town was 49.7% male and 50.3% female.

2000 census

As of the census^[12] of 2000, there were 6,820 people, 2,637 households, and 1,890 families residing in the town. The population density was 157.7 people per square mile (60.9/km²). There were 3,202 housing units at an average density of 74.0 per square mile (28.6/km²). The racial makeup of the town was 97.89% White, 0.43% African American, 0.15% Native American, 0.38% Asian, 0.07% Pacific Islander, 0.22% from other races, and 0.87% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 0.59% of the population.

There were 2,637 households out of which 33.5% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 60.9% were married couples living together, 8.0% had a female householder with no husband present, and 28.3% were non-families. 19.7% of all households were made up of individuals and 7.1% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.57 and the average family size was 2.98.

In the town the population was spread out with 24.6% under the age of 18, 6.3% from 18 to 24, 34.6% from 25 to 44, 24.6% from 45 to 64, and 9.9% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 37 years. For every 100 females there were 103.2 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 99.6 males.

The median income for a household in the town was \$50,107, and the median income for a family was \$55,806. Males had a median income of \$36,342 versus \$26,433 for females. The per capita income for the town was \$22,050. About 1.3% of families and 2.6% of the population were below the poverty line, including 2.3% of those under age 18 and none of those age 65 or over.

Education

- Maine School Administrative District 15

Notable people

- Wendell Abraham Anderson, politician
- Susan Austin, politician

1870	1,158	−1.6%
1880	1,798	3.5%
1890	1,517	−15.6%
1900	1,388	−8.5%
1910	1,270	−8.5%
1920	1,139	−10.3%
1930	1,189	4.4%
1940	1,378	15.9%
1950	1,631	18.4%
1960	2,184	33.9%
1970	2,939	34.6%
1980	4,344	47.8%
1990	5,904	35.9%
2000	6,820	15.5%
2010	7,761	13.8%

sources:^[11]

- Cuke Barrows, professional baseball outfielder
- Todd Chretien, activist
- Simon Greenleaf, jurist
- Samuel Mayall, US congressman
- Warren H. Vinton, state legislator

References

1. "US Gazetteer files 2010" (<http://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/gazetteer2010.html>). United States Census Bureau. Retrieved 2012-12-16.
2. "American FactFinder" (<http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>). United States Census Bureau. Retrieved 2012-12-16.
3. "Population Estimates" (<http://www.census.gov/popest/data/cities/totals/2012/SUB-EST2012.html>). United States Census Bureau. Retrieved 2013-07-06.
4. "Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2010 Demographic Profile Data (DP-1): Gray town, Cumberland County, Maine" (<http://factfinder2.census.gov>). U.S. Census Bureau, American Factfinder. Retrieved June 6, 2012.
5. "NWS Gray" (<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/gyx/>). *National Weather Service*.
6. Coolidge, Austin J.; John B. Mansfield (1859). *A History and Description of New England* (<http://books.google.com/books?id=OcoMAAAAYAAJ&lpg=PA9&dq=coolidge%20mansfield%20history%20description%20new%20england%201859&pg=PA143#v=onepage&q&f=false>). Boston, Massachusetts. pp. 143–144.
7. George J. Varney, "History of Gray, Maine" (1886) (<http://history.rays-place.com/me/gray-me.htm>)
8. History of Mayall Mills (<http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/programs/history/mayallmill/index.htm>)
9. The Stranger (<http://20thmainevolunteers.com/stranger.html>)
10. Gray, Maine Zoning Map (http://www.graymaine.org/Pages/GrayME_ShorelandOrds/GrayZoningMap2010.pdf)
11. [1] (<http://www.library.umaine.edu/census/townsearch.asp?county=Cumberland&town=Gray&from=1790&to=2000&otype=ex>), accessed March, 2010.
12. "American FactFinder" (<http://factfinder2.census.gov>). United States Census Bureau. Retrieved 2008-01-31.

Sites of Interest

- Town of Gray official website (<http://www.graymaine.org/>)
- Town of Gray official Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/townofgrayme>)
- Gray Public Library (<http://www.gray.lib.me.us/>)
- Gray Historical Society (<http://www.grayhistorical.org/>)
- Libby Hill Forest Trails (<http://Libbyhill.org>)
- Pineland Farms business, education, and recreation campus (<http://www.pinelandfarms.org/>)
- The Maine Wildlife Park (<https://www.facebook.com/mainewildlifepark>)
- Friends of the Maine Wildlife Park (<http://www.wildlifeparkfriends.org/>)
- Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village (<http://www.shaker.lib.me.us/index.html>)
- Gray Historical Society & Museum (<http://grayhistorical.org/>)
- Mayall Mills State Historic Site (http://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/discover_history_explore_nature/history/mayall_mill/index.shtml)
- Dry Mills Schoolhouse
- Gray SnoWolves Snowmobile Club (<http://www.graysnowolves.com/home/maps-and-links>)
- *The Independent* (<http://www.independentpub.com/>), local newspaper
- Maine Genealogy: Gray, Cumberland County, Maine (http://www.maineancestry.net/individual_place_record.asp?place=gray)
- National Weather Service Gray/Portland Office (<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/gyx/>)

- Patriot 5K race (<http://www.patriot5k.org>)

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