



TIDBITS

Did You Know...

CONNECTICUT—Thompson Chocolate in Meriden (pop. 60,868) has been making chocolate products since the company's founding in 1879. Founder William H. Thompson was one of the nation's first chocolatiers.

DELAWARE—Once a small family farm, Holts Landing State Park in Millville (pop. 544) features a sturdy pier built for crabbing. The pier opened in 2001 over shallow bay waters to permit crabbers and anglers to try their luck at catching blue crab and other seafood delicacies.

MAINE—Film and stage actress Anna Kendrick was born in 1985 in Portland (pop. 66,194). Kendrick perhaps is best known for her roles in the 2009 film *Up in the Air* and as Jessica Stanley in the *Twilight Saga* film series.

MARYLAND—Sojourner-Douglass College in Baltimore was named for black abolitionists Sojourner Truth and Frederick Douglass. The college began in 1972 as the Homestead-Montebello Center of Antioch University and later became an independent four-year college.

MASSACHUSETTS—Filmmaker Jeffrey Kusama-Hinte, also known as Jeffrey Levy-Hinte, filmed the 2011 documentary *Charlotte* on a 50-foot gaff-rigged schooner designed by Nat Benjamin of Gannon and Benjamin Marine Railway of Vineyard Haven (pop. 2,114). Also the name of the boat, *Charlotte* focuses on tradition, craftsmanship, family, community and a love for the sea.

NEW HAMPSHIRE—Poet Edna Dean Proctor, born in 1829 in Henniker (pop. 4,836), attracted the attention of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, who included some of her work in his *Poems of Places*. Among her most recognizable poems are "Song of the Ancient People" and "Russian Journey."

NEW JERSEY—Born in 1924 in Plainfield (pop. 49,808), Joe Black became the first black baseball player to win a World Series game when he was pitching for the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1952. That same year, Black was named the team's rookie of the year.

NEW YORK—The Ronny Turiaf Heart to Heart Foundation was established in 2009 by Washington Wizards center Ronny Turiaf, who was inspired by his own experience of undergoing heart surgery in 2005. Through his foundation, Turiaf, who was traded by the New York Knicks in December, has used his celebrity to support children with heart-related health problems.

PENNSYLVANIA—McKeesport Candy Co., founded in 1927 in McKeesport (pop. 19,731), is one of the nation's oldest wholesale candy companies and is in its third generation of family ownership.

RHODE ISLAND—Woonsocket (pop. 41,186) is the corporate home of CVS (Consumer Value Stores) Caremark Corp. Opening its first pharmacy in 1963 in Lowell, Mass., CVS since has merged with Caremark RX Inc. CVS Caremark operates several thousand stores nationwide and in Puerto Rico.

VERMONT—The New England Center for Circus Arts (NECCA) was rooted in 2003, when sisters and circus performers Elsie Smith and Serenity Smith Forchion launched Nimble Arts LLC, a circus school and performing troupe based in Brattleboro (pop. 12,046). Within three years, hundreds of local and international students were learning circus skills at the school, and in 2007, NECCA was incorporated.