

RESOURCE TRANSCRIPT

Title: Mason Presents: Fritz Wetherbee on Lake Winnepesaukee

Caption: How did Lake Winnepesaukee get its name?

Credit: New Hampshire Historical Society

Fritz Wetherbee: [fiddle music playing] It's large, the largest in New Hampshire—72 square miles of surface, 182 miles of shoreline, and an island for every day in the year, 365 in all. It's 300 feet deep in places, deep enough to float not a boat, but a ship—the motor ship *Mount Washington*. The place was first discovered by white explorers in 1652, and here they found a weirs, a place where Native Americans trapped fish, and they declared this to be the source of the Merrimack [River]. They also carved their initials in a rock, which you can still see. In the Abenaki language, the word "winni" means smiling, and the word "ogee" means Great Spirit. Some think that the English heard these words as Winnipiseogee. Even to this day, to sail the lake we call Winnepesaukee is to feel the smile of the Great Spirit.