



RESOURCE TRANSCRIPT

Title: Mason Presents: Fritz Wetherbee on Mount Monadnock

Caption: Why is Mount Monadnock special?

Credit: New Hampshire Historical Society

Fritz Wetherbee: She's not the tallest compared to other mountains in the state—only 3,165 feet. Prehistoric glaciers smoothed the landscape around her and in fact, her name has become the geological term for a summit that stands alone. Her name is Monadnock, and almost everyone you talk to has made it to the summit. In fact, it is the most-climbed mountain in the world. On a clear day you can stand on the treeless peak of Monadnock and see all six New England states. Near the turn of the 18th century, local sheep farmers set a fire on the mountain. The smoke caught predatory wolves, but it got out of hand. The fire burned its way to the top, and when it was over, the soil was nothing more than powder, which eroded quickly and left the summit completely and permanently treeless. To many, Monadnock is more than a mountain. She is in fact a metaphor for independence, and has inspired generations of artists, writers, and hikers.