



## ***RESOURCE TRANSCRIPT***

**Title:** Mason Presents: Fritz Wetherbee on Mount Washington

**Caption:** Why is Mount Washington known as the “home of world’s worst weather”?

**Credit:** New Hampshire Historical Society

**Fritz Wetherbee:** It looks a lot taller than it is. Until 1784, maps showed it to be 10,000 feet. Turns out it’s only 6,288 feet. Still, it’s the highest peak in the northeast. And in fact, 400 million years ago it was over 15,000 feet high. But over time the summit has been worn down. The weather did it. Mount Washington, after all, is the home of the world’s worst weather. On April 12, 1934, the Mount Washington weather observatory clocked the fastest surface wind ever, 231 miles per hour. On the summit, hurricane-force winds are commonplace, and snow has been reported in every month of the year. Yet, despite the bad weather, people still brave the elements to see the view from Mount Washington. The first white man to make the summit was Darby Field in 1642. His bushwhack expedition took 18 days. Today, thanks to the Auto Road, the Cog Railway, and well-maintained trails, about a quarter million people make it to the summit each year.