

Granite Quarrying

Granite here is quite simply, plentiful. Large slabs lay one on top of another in this area. Our beautifully grained stone has a nearly perfect blend of minerals including feldspar, mica and quartz. The uniform, mostly light color and texture will polish to a radiant smoothness.

Some granite was drawn out and used early in Fitzwilliam's history. Granite quarrying began in earnest in the 1840's. Fitzwilliam was one of the three major granite locations in this state, the other two being Concord and Milford. A spur track in the depot section of town ensured access from a large quarry to be found there and which ran to the depot railroad station.

The Fitzwilliam Branch of the Granite Cutters' International Association was a group of well organized, highly skilled workers. Their contracts were fair and exact. Housing was provided for those who arrived from other towns. Many were Finns. Hard but honest work, for a minimum wage of \$2.80 a day.

Look around. You will see Fitzwilliam's granite at many locations, here as well as in major cities across the country.

Gristmill

This came along directly behind the sawmill. Water powered as any other mill, its heavy stones turned to grind grain grown in Fitzwilliam's fields. There was no shortage of mills. They operated in this town for about 150 years.