

Wooden-Ware

In the early to mid 19th. century attempts at profiting were made by individuals entering the wooden-ware industry. The increase in the use of wooden staples was rapid. Enterprising Fitzwilliam residents rushed to meet the challenge.

Jacob Felton became a chair maker. Stephen Harris also made chairs. Seats were made from elm bark which he obtained from Gap Mountain.

Thomas Clark made household items from wood. He used a lathe, crudely made in the early days, to produce plates, trays, spoons and other useful pieces.

George Simonds tried his hand at picture frames. He manufactured a great many of them. But in the end, like the others, he could not compete with nearby towns whose superior water power enabled them to produce wood products in much greater quantity. While other businesses within the border states flourished, notably in Gardner MA, Fitzwilliam's mills could not match the power.

Fitzwilliam can still take great pride in the wooden-ware it produced. Peddlars managed to bring these goods as far away as Pennsylvania and New York. So much was sold in fact that it was thought by those far distant that Fitzwilliam was a much larger place rather than a village of under 100 homes.