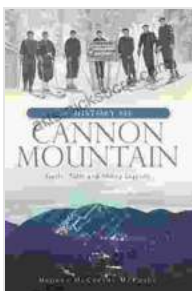


# The Storied History of Cannon Mountain: A Legendary Peak in the White Mountains



## A History of Cannon Mountain: Trails, Tales and Ski Legends (Landmarks) by Meghan McCarthy McPhaul

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 4327 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 179 pages  
Screen Reader : Supported



## **Geological Origins**

Cannon Mountain, a towering peak in the heart of the White Mountains of New Hampshire, has a rich and storied history that spans millions of years. Its geological origins can be traced back to the Devonian period, approximately 360 million years ago, when the region was covered by a vast ocean. Over time, tectonic forces pushed up the seafloor, forming the ancient mountain ranges that would eventually become the White Mountains.

During the last major ice age, glaciers carved and shaped the landscape of the White Mountains, including Cannon Mountain. The glaciers left behind deep valleys, steep cliffs, and numerous glacial erratics, which are large boulders that were transported by the ice. The unique topography of Cannon Mountain is a testament to the immense power of these glaciers.

## **Native American Legends**

Native American tribes have inhabited the White Mountains region for thousands of years. The Abenaki people, who called the mountain "Kancamagus," had a deep connection to Cannon Mountain and considered it a sacred place. According to Abenaki legend, the mountain was home to powerful spirits and was a place of vision quests and spiritual ceremonies.

One of the most famous Abenaki legends about Cannon Mountain tells the story of a young warrior named Passaconaway. Passaconaway was said to have climbed to the summit of the mountain to seek guidance from the

Great Spirit. After spending several days and nights on the mountain, Passaconaway had a vision that foretold the arrival of white settlers and the changes that would come to the land.

## **Early Settlements**

The first European settlers arrived in the White Mountains region in the mid-17th century. In the early 1800s, settlers began to establish farms and villages in the valleys surrounding Cannon Mountain. The mountain itself was used for logging and hunting, and its steep slopes provided a challenge for early explorers and adventurers.

In the late 1800s, the White Mountains became a popular destination for tourists and nature enthusiasts. Visitors were drawn to the region's scenic beauty, pristine lakes, and towering mountains. Cannon Mountain quickly became a popular destination for hikers and climbers, who were drawn to its challenging terrain and panoramic views.

## **Development of the Ski Area**

The development of the Cannon Mountain ski area began in the early 1900s. In 1938, the Cannon Mountain Tramway was built, making it one of the first aerial tramways in the United States. The tramway provided skiers and hikers with easy access to the summit of the mountain, and it quickly became a popular attraction.

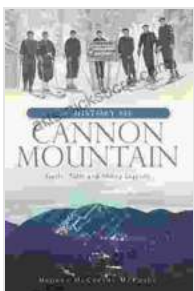
Over the years, the Cannon Mountain ski area has expanded to include over 260 skiable acres, with trails for all levels of skiers and snowboarders. The mountain is known for its challenging terrain, including the legendary "Cannonball" trail, which is considered one of the most difficult ski trails in New England.

## Tourism and Legacy

Cannon Mountain has played a significant role in the tourism industry of the White Mountains region. The mountain and its ski area attract visitors from all over the world, who come to enjoy the skiing, hiking, and other outdoor activities that the area has to offer.

In addition to its tourism value, Cannon Mountain is also an important natural and cultural resource. The mountain is home to a variety of plant and animal life, and its slopes have been used for scientific research and educational programs. The mountain is also a popular destination for rock climbing, ice climbing, and other outdoor sports.

Cannon Mountain is a legendary peak with a rich and storied history. From its geological origins to its role in Native American culture, early settlements, and the development of the ski area, the mountain has played a significant role in the history of the White Mountains region. Today, Cannon Mountain continues to be a popular destination for skiers, hikers, and nature enthusiasts, and it remains one of the most iconic landmarks in New England.



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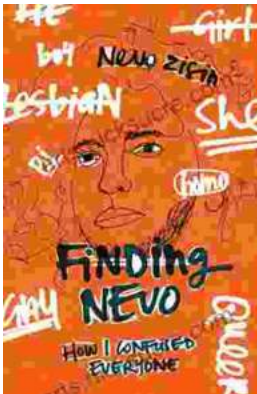
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