

50. Barton Garnet Mines

The Garnet Mine near the summit of Gore Mountain was probably the largest in the world. Great masses of garnet crystals, some several feet in diameter, were found in the open pit mine which runs the width of the summit peak. While some of the crystals were of gem quality, most of the production of the mine was directed toward industrial uses, much of it for very fine quality sand paper for fashioning wood. The nature of the garnet provides a sharp edged crystal which is ideal for cutting, shaping and polishing wood surfaces. With the exhausting of the garnet deposits in the Gore Mountain mine, a new site is now in production at Ruby Mountain about four miles away in a northerly direction. The tailings of these mines when used for road surfacing produces a dazzling display of light flashes from the sun's reflection.

