

### **Description by Dave Roberts**

Along the way you will notice an Old Quarry Site. This site and several other spots in the immediate vicinity were once used as a stone quarry in the mid to late 1800's. If the ferns and other vegetation haven't grown up too high you can still see some of the quarried stones and a few of the implements used to perform some of the various tasks required to operate a small stone quarry. Within sight of a sign you can see some of the cable and articulated iron rods which were used to move the quarried blocks down off the ledges they were quarried from. In other places you can find more of these articulated iron rods and remains of an old hand winch used to move the blocks of stone. With a good deal of luck you might also find some of the drills, wedges and feathers used to split the blocks of stone off the open ledges. There was once a building located not too far from this site, where the rough quarried blocks were worked up into usable products. Evidence exists which suggests that cobble stones were made here for use as pavement for the city streets of the 1800's - some of the streets of Laconia are said to have been paved with stones from this quarry. Stone from here was reputedly shipped to Concord, perhaps for the same purpose. An old newspaper article refers to products made at this quarry being shipped by rail to Boston. Other possible products created here may have been foundation stones for local house construction, stones for outdoor entry steps, or grave markers, fence posts, etc . A crude path, marked by yellow tape, leads from this site to a few of the other sites that were utilized during the life of the quarry. This path rejoins the trail a couple of hundred yards from here. If you use this path, be careful, for it is rough in places and tends to become filled with ferns throughout the summer, making it hard to see stones, downed tree limbs, etc. which could make walking a little difficult. The stones may have been transported down the mountain via the old wood road that the Quarry Trail crosses just a few hundred yards west of here. In the 1800' s there were a few farm sites on the side of this mountain that were served by that road. Some of the older local residents suggest, however, that they remember stories about the stone being transported down over farm fields that once extended up the side of the mountain almost to the quarry site. If you happen to locate artifacts of the former quarry operation, the proper thing to do is to leave them where you find them, so others who are interested in such things will have the same opportunity you had to find such interesting relics of the past of this area.