

Andover Science Nuggets

The Ragged Rock

By John Wallach
Proctor Academy '10

The rock that makes up Ragged Mountain is a metamorphic rock that contains five minerals: quartz, feldspar, muscovite, garnet, and silliminite. Its general appearance is of small scattered crystals with large streaks of silliminite crystals. The silliminite – silvery green, sometimes blue – often protrudes from the rest of the rock because it is a harder mineral and erodes at a slower rate than the rest of the rock.

The origin of the Ragged rock stems back to when the North American and African tectonic plates converged. By the Jurassic, all the sedimentary rock that had once been present on the ocean floor had been subjected to extreme heat and pressure and uplifted and thus was transformed into a mountain range of metamorphic rock, the Ragged rock.

Andover In Africa?

By Eric Viandier
Proctor Science Teacher

In the Devonian, the Old (proto) Atlantic finally closed as the North American and African plates came into contact forming a valley, the Connecticut Valley of today. Ragged Mountain and Kearsarge Mountain formed on the continental shelf of the African plate, which eventually began to drift away in the Jurassic, opening today's modern Atlantic.

However, the scission did not occur at the Connecticut Valley, the zone of contact, but further east, where the seacoast of New Hampshire lies today. Ragged and Kearsarge, of African origin, were left behind, geologically glued to North America.

Geologically speaking, Andover belongs to Africa!

One Mile Of Ice Overhead

By Molly Flam
Proctor Academy '10

During the last ice age, which climaxed 20,000 years ago, a large glacier moved across New England from the northwest to the southeast. The northwestern slopes of Kearsarge Mountain

and Ragged Mountain are gradual because the glacier smoothed out the land as it went up the mountain.

Southeastern slopes on the other hand are jagged and steep because the glacier would chip away chunks of the mountain as it went down. This is known as glacial plucking. From the Bulkhead of Ragged Mountain, created by glacial plucking, you can easily see this slope profile on Kearsarge.

Boulders that had been moved by the glacier were deposited, scattered throughout the land when the glacier finally melted. These boulders are called erratic boulders. The Balanced Rock on Ragged Mountain is an erratic boulder



The Balanced Rock on Ragged Mtn.

and shows clear evidence of the glacier action. The Balanced Rock is igneous, while all the local rock on which it stands balanced is metamorphic; this proves that the balanced rock comes from another place.

Also, the Balanced Rock is smooth and round, since it was eroded while being pushed and rolled along by the glacier. The Ragged rock outcrop below the Balanced Rock has grooves on the northwest side that end at the base of the Balanced Rock. The grooves were carved by the Balanced Rock as it was dragged by the glacier. The grooves are oriented northwest to southeast, another evidence of the direction of the glacial flow.

THE 15TH!!!!

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