

feet. The surface is stony, and under the soil a good sandstone was quarried, a material needed by all the early settlers for cellar walls, chimneys, wells, and other purposes, and for this reason was held in "common" more than a century. Doubtless every inhabitant held the right to go there for stone for his own needs, as he had the right to go on any of the "commons" for his supply of wood. One of the Thralls had authority by vote of the town to open a quarry within certain limits toward the southern end of the hill; the excavation is still to be seen.\*

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\* It is an interesting fact that when the land was distributed, 1753 or later, that a lot of several acres at the south end fell into the hands of the Ellsworth family, who never stripped it of its forest. It was probably the only primeval forest in this vicinity one year ago, but a sawmill has now invaded it, and laid its monarchs low. I counted the rings, the annual growths, on several of the fallen oaks, and some had more than 200, showing those trees to have been at least three-fourths of a century old when the lot was in "commons."