“The Lifting Process of Granite Quarrying”
(At the Mt. Airy quarries in North Carolina)

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Excerpts from the article:

“The quarrying problems where the granite deposits lie in mountains of almost solid rock is different from the ordinary quarrying and interesting in many ways. L. B. Ward, in recent number of the Scientific American tells of the lifting practiced in North Carolina, where great rock masses are found in many places.

“The section of the company at an around the vicinity of Mt. Airy is composed almost entirely of these rock masses. The Mt. Airy quarries are situated on a hill many acres in area, very gradual in slope and practically bare of vegetation.…”

“The ‘lifting process’ is applicable to quarries of large horizontal areas and in solid masses, and such conditions being almost ideal at the Mt. Airy quarries, this process is altogether used.…”

This article, which begins on the next page, is presented on the Stone Quarries and Beyond web site.

http://quarriesandbeyond.org/

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ORDINARY LEDGES OF VARYING THICKNESS, IN MT. AIRY QUARRIES.

The quarrying problems where the granite deposits lie in mountains of almost solid rock is different from the ordinary quarrying and interesting in many ways. L. B. Ward, in a recent number of the Scientific American tells of the lifting practiced in North Carolina, where great rock masses are found in many places.

The section of the country at and around the vicinity of Mt. Airy is composed almost entirely of these rock masses. The Mt. Airy quarries are situated on a hill many acres in area, very gradual in slope and practically bare of vegetation, composed of a solid, uniform mass of moderately hard granite, which shows no

PHOTO CAPTIONS

“Ordinary ledges of varying thickness, in Mt. Airy quarries.” & “View of big ledge showing seam at bottom.”
It can readily be seen that a great deal of time, labor, and expense are saved by this unique, successful and interesting process.

The Mt. Airy quarries are owned by the North Carolina Granite Corporation, and quarrying on an extensive scale has been conducted for many years. The stone is a light gray biotite granite, containing no visible injurious minerals. Crushing tests of this granite reported by the North Carolina Geological Survey showed an average of over 20,000 pounds to the square inch, the tests being made on two-inch cubes.

The Stone Mountain exposures referred to above are in Wilkes and Alleghany counties, about twenty miles from Wilkesboro. The north, south and west slopes of Stone Mountain proper are bare of vegetation and the top is practically so. The stone is a light gray, slightly coarser than the Mt. Airy granite, which it closely resembles. Like the Mt. Airy granite, it is nearly free from joint planes, and is quite uniform throughout the whole area.

In the pink granite deposit of the Balfour Quarry Co., at Salisbury, vertical jointing is quite strongly developed in several directions in the various openings, with the planes spaced at such intervals as to allow the quarrying of stone of any practicable and desirable size.

(phoro captions) “A common form of ledge.” & “A ‘lift’ being split and drilled into required widths and lengths.”