

Self-guided trail guide

Welcome to the Windfall Quarry Trail at Indian Hollow Reservation

- 1) The old railroad bridge: At this marker there was a quarry railroad bridge. The bridge, also called the “Pony Bridge” because the quarry railroad had a “pony steam engine”. The bridge crossed the river at this point so the Grafton-Brunswick Railroad (owned by the quarry company) could transport stone from the processing buildings on the west side of the river, to the main tracks in Rawsonville (later called Grafton).
- 2) Cabin: Around 1958 Howard Sadler, an attorney from Elyria purchased the land from the Miller family. He decided to build a cabin at this scenic river bend. Mr. Sadler also attempted to build a car ford (bridge) across the river where the old quarry railroad bridge use to be. We wanted to be able to drive his car or truck across the river and down what is now the Wayne Shipman Trail into Grafton. The flood of 1969 destroyed the river ford and soon after the metro parks acquired that property. All that remains is the old concrete slab.
- 3) Grindstone: At the base of this tree a lone grindstone lays. It was made further north along this trail at one of the old grindstone lathe buildings. which is now gone except for one machinery foundation on the very edge of park property. Large stone like this were used to mill grain. Smaller grindstones were used to sharpen tools. That area was also the inventory storage yard where the Grafton-Brunswick Railroad loaded the stone to be delivered to customers all over North America.
- 4) Swing Bridge: The old swing bridge crossed the east branch of the Black River at the southern end of the

jutting rock. This allowed quarry workers in Grafton to walk to work and reach either the stone processing buildings on the west side of the river or the quarries along Indian Hollow Road. The official names of these quarries were the old Black River Stone Quarry (now filled in) and the West Quarry. The west quarries include all the excavated land along Indian Hollow to the river including the two deep pits dubbed the North and South Tuttle Quarries, named after the former land owners, Charles and Sally Tuttle. The Tuttle house was dragged across Indian Hollow Road in the early 1900’s so that the northern deep quarry could be dug.

- 5) Large Flat Rock that juts out into the river : During the Revolutionary War in the late 1700’s, this area was not yet settled by white settlers and American Indians called the area home. An Indian boy of about 11 or 12 years old was hunting along the river during a drought. A storm approached and with it, a tornado. He ran south toward the tornado and dove under the jutting rock. Seconds later the tornado went directly over the rock, completely destroying the woods on the west side of the river but left the highlands on the east side of the river untouched. In the 1840’s, 1850, and to about the mid 1860’s, the river was dammed at this site and a water wheel provided power to operate a saw mill. The mill, owned by John Hart, was used to clear all the surrounding land so that the quarries could be dug and farm land along Indian Hollow Road was created out of the forests. By the 1870’s the water wheel sat rotting in the river next to the rock. Up above, on the rock, a steam boiler house was used to power the nearby sandstone sawing building.
- 6) Sandstone block cutting building Physical evidence of the location of this building still exists since machinery

foundations can still be seen. Sandstone was not actually cut by saws. Instead, wire was moved across the stone until it formed a groove. Then water and sand was added to the groove. The water, sand and moving wire would cut through the sandstone. Large or small blocks were made. Sidewalks were made by cutting large blocks into thin slabs. Stone from this quarry yard was used to help rebuild Chicago after the Great Chicago Fire.

- 7) Spring or well: This man made well was dug by the quarry company as a source of water for the steam boilers used to power the stone processing buildings and the guy derricks used to move the huge stone blocks. While the river could have been used for this purpose as well, the well was more reliable during the summer when the river gets low.
- 8) Pine trees/quarry road : The pine trees in this area were planted by the former property owner in the late 1950’s and early 1960’s. He had planned to make this area into a camp ground and felt the pine trees would be a nice addition to the area. The camp ground was never built and the property ended up in the hands of the Lorain County Metro Parks around 1963. The path from Indian Hollow Road to the river was a quarry road. Old maps show it as a road and not a railroad. However, it intersects an old quarry railroad line where the trail heads north toward the quarry well. That stretch of path is an old rail line which took stone from the North and South Tuttle Quarries over to the processing buildings to be cut.



