

ROCKS, ROCKS, ROCKS

BY MARY BLAKE BENSON

Historic Geological Specimens from All Over the World Have Been Sent to Edward H. Clough of Manchester for His Remarkable Collection of Rocks. With the Aid of These Curios Mr. Clough Has Transformed a Neglected Shore Line on Meredith Bay Into a Beautiful Park.

It was a fortunate day for the town of Meredith when Edward H. Clough turned his attention to the neglected shore line of Meredith Bay and incidentally to the preservation of that venerable landmark, "The Old Oak."

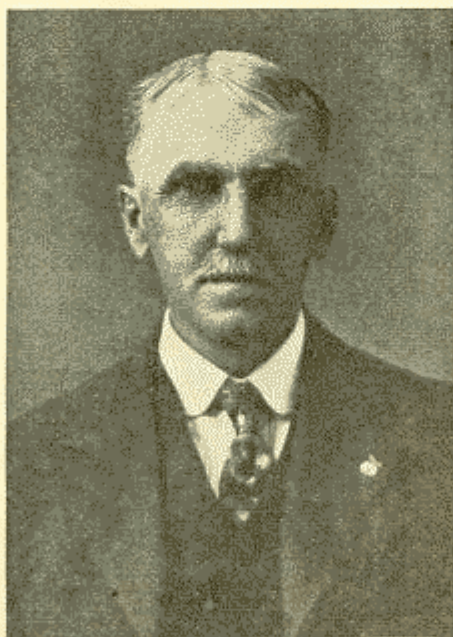
Although Mr. Clough makes his home in Manchester, where he is the owner of a large coal business, he is a native of Meredith.

"I was born in that house," said Mr. Clough, as he pointed to a cozy little place overlooking Meredith Bay known as The Clough Homestead, "And to me this is the most beautiful place on earth."

After trying for several years, Mr. Clough succeeded in the fall of 1924, in purchasing 240 feet of neglected shoreline directly opposite his old home. An examination of the lake bottom showed that it consisted of solid clay,

and after removing a vast amount of debris, Mr. Clough set about the self-imposed task of transforming the ragged, unkempt lake front into the attractive little park which it is today.

First of all, he turned his attention to that much beloved landmark, "The Old Oak." No one knows the age of this tree, but certain it is that Meredith Bay would not be complete without it. For several years the high waters of the lake have gradually washed away the soil from the roots of the old tree and relentless winds have threatened to tear it from its moorings.



EDWARD H. CLOUGH.
Collector of Stones.

Under Mr. Clough's supervision the roots of the tree were covered with earth and stones and the cavities along its trunk carefully filled with cement. A retaining wall was then built around it on the shoreward side, thus complete-

ly doing away with any danger from the high water or ice.

The protection of the old oak being assured, Mr. Clough conceived the happy idea of extending his four foot retaining wall along the remainder of his shore property. This entailed a great deal of work and not a little expense, but before the project was fairly started the plans for his attractive little park were already being formulated by Mr. Clough. In due time the land was graded and seeded. Small trees were set out here and there and a neat graveled path was constructed leading from the highway to the water's edge. As the work progressed the interest of the townspeople became aroused and an appropriation raised to continue the wall along the town shore into the village proper.

An American eagle, who once spread his wings over one of the battleships in Dewey's fleet at Manilla Bay, was presented to Mr. Clough by Mr. F. B. Honeywell of Boston, Mass. Perched on the crest of a slender iron arch from which swings an attractive sign bearing the name Clough Park, this eagle now keeps watch over the peaceful waters of Meredith Harbor.

A metallic deer was the gift of Mrs. Frederick Smyth of Manchester and it was through the kindness of Mr. John Mallody of Manchester that Mr. Clough came into possession of the extremely lifelike statue of an Indian Chief which guards the park on the water's edge. A one pound gun, which was used during the World War, was procured through the efforts of Senator Moses. This gun is mounted upon a circular piece of marble resting upon a stone base which at one time formed part of a column at the entrance to the White House.

There are many attractive features of Clough Park which challenge the attention of the tourists who pass along the Daniel Webster Highway to and from the White Mountains, but the unique collection of stones which Mr. Clough has secured is deserving of far more space than be given in an article of this sort. From the banks of the river Jordan, from the temples of Hawaii, from Canada and from various parts of The United States has been assembled a collection of rock specimens which from a historical and geological standpoint are unequalled in this country. Artistically cemented into the top of the retaining wall these stones never fail to capture attention of all who see them.

The Frissell Stone, (so named in honor of its donor, Mr. Frank M. Frissell of Manchester) is one of the finest geological specimens ever found in the lake region. This large pear shaped boulder was taken from the water in the vicinity of the Beaver Islands. Although subjected as it has been to the action of the water for thousands of years, the geological markings are distinctly visible.

Dr. G. I. Van Ness of the United States Marine Hospital at Chelsea Mass., has contributed a stone which he secured from the walls of the early heathen temples in the Hawaiian Islands.

"I had read about these temples or 'Heian,'" writes Dr. Van Ness, "and about their hideous gods which were the earthly creations of their heathenish minds at that time: and wishing to see some of these interesting sights which still exist, I made myself acquainted with the location of some of these old temples and started out to find them. After much hunting I came

upon the remains of one of these spots of misery and despair perched high on a bluff overlooking the ocean. It was a rectangular space about one hundred by two hundred feet; paved and walled to a height of about three and one half feet, with such rock as I am sending to Clough Park. In one end of this enclosure the priest had his abode, and

The Michigan Stone is another Indian relic. In the year 1832, five years before Michigan became a state, a pioneer named Moses Willets lived with his family in a little log house near what is now the town of Hillsdale. Some years earlier a tribe of Indians with Bawbeese as their chief settled on the shore of Bawbeese Lake, seven



ARCH AT CLOUGH PARK

Perched on the arch is the eagle taken from one of Dewey's ships at Manila Bay. In the left half circle is a stone from the Coolidge homestead and in the right half circle a stone from the estate of Theodore Roosevelt. Standing under the arch are Mrs. E. H. Clough and her grand-daughter, Priscilla.

in the other end their hideous god was erected and to this god the life of some poor victim had to be sacrificed."

From Scituate, Mass., came a stone which was presented by Abner Dalby of that town. This stone is a relic of Indian Days. For many years it had lain near an old well on Mr. Dalby's little farm, admired and coveted by all who saw it. It was on this stone that the Scituate tribe of Indians sharpened their tools and arrow heads,

miles from the Willet's home. An epidemic among the Indians had wiped out nearly the whole tribe and as each chief died his possessions were buried with him. It was while digging in this Indian graveyard that Mose Willet unearthed a "lucky stone;" the treasure of some Indian conjuror, and carried it to his home. When Mr. M. C. Willets of Boston, grandson of Moses Willets, visited Meredith he became interested in Mr. Clough's collection of stones and

immediately sent to Michigan and had the Indian relic shipped to New Hampshire.

It was while visiting in Plymouth, Vt., two years ago that Mr. Clough called upon Colonel Coolidge and was presented by him a flat triangular stone which had formerly been used as a seat by President Coolidge. On this stone has been inscribed the words "Coolidge Home, Nov. 9, 1924."

tion beside the walk leading to the water's edge.

Not a few of the more unusual rock formations have been contributed by Mr. Horace Fogg of Meredith who has located them along the lake shores at various times.

The first stone at the very beginning of the wall, under the Old Oak resembles a woman's profile and was found on the farm of William Veasy of Mere-



"THE OLD OAK"

This famous tree has been preserved by Mr. Clough. The picture also shows part of the retaining wall at Clough Park with some of the stones of historic interest. At the right is Meredith Bay.

"Little did I suspect," said Mr. Clough, "that this stone which was the very first one in my collection, would be followed by an assortment as varied as I now possess."

Former President Roosevelt was a personal friend of Mr. Clough and it was through the kindness of Mrs. Roosevelt that a beautiful rock specimen from Sagamore Hills found its way to Clough Park. This stone bears the inscription "T. R." and with the Coolidge stone occupies a prominent posi-

dith; while its companion stone, a miniature Old Man of the Mountains, comes from the Dudley Leavitt farm in that town.

The state of Indiana is represented by a stone from the bed of the Wabash River. It is about one foot square and apparently came from some volcanic eruption. In it the imprint of ferns and small animals are easily discernible.

From Iowa comes a small piece of petrified bone. This is white in color,

very heavy and probably many hundreds of years old.

Mr. F. B. Honywill of Boston has contributed several stones. One of these, found at Brant Rock, is a flat oblong stone about six inches long and three inches wide with a round hole, apparently water worn, through its center.

Mr. Frank Kimball of South Paris, Maine, contributed two valuable and lovely specimens of tourmaline. These were taken from Mt. Mica in the town of Paris, which is one of the most remarkable localities of tourmaline in the world. This hill is one of the spurs of a greater elevation known as Streaked Mountain. It covers but a few square rods and the tourmaline thereon was discovered by two students in 1820.

Of historical interest is the stone which was sent to Mr. Clough from Devil's Den on the battlefield of Gettysburg. This natural fortification became part of the first line of battle on the second day's fighting. When Longstreet attempted to turn the Federal left flank, his soldiers, with reckless daring, carried the position. Their advance was so hotly contested by the Federals that the base and left slope of the bluff was afterwards known as the "Slaughter Pen." Many marks of bullets and shells are yet plainly visible upon the rocks.

The Plymouth Rock stone was found at the place where Plymouth Rock originally stood. It is of the same formation as Plymouth Rock, and is thought to have been broken off from the main rock at the time when the old

stone was moved to its present resting place.

A very attractive green stone with white quartz speckled through it was found on the Storm King Mountain highway, Hudson River, N. Y. This highway has been blasted out of the granite side of the Mountain and in some places it is four and five hundred feet above the Hudson River. It is known as "The Monarch of American Highways."

General Harry B. Cilley has recently donated a sun dial in memory of his mother, Mrs. Arthur E. Clarke of Manchester. The dial will be placed on a marble base and will occupy a prominent position in the park.

Another recent acquisition is a peculiarly-shaped stone from the town of Westminster, Vt., where the first blood of the Revolution was shed when William French was shot at the Court House. It was in Westminster, too, that a convention was held in 1777 which declared New Hampshire a free and independent state. The stone was presented by Mrs. C. H. Shepardson of Bellows Falls, Vt.

And so we might continue almost indefinitely but space forbids. From many states and countries Mr. Clough has gathered the material for his wall and truly he has "buildd better than he knew." Modest and unassuming, he accepts but little of the credit due him for the success of his enterprise.

"Meredith is home to me," says Mr. Clough, "and if my efforts have helped to increase an appreciation of the beauties of beautiful Meredith Bay, I am well repaid."

NEXT MONTH—In the July issue of the Granite Monthly will appear a new book department, to be conducted by Oliver A. Jenkins, former news editor of the Concord Telegram and now with the Concord Monitor.