

***SITE #3: THE ALECK DAIRY FARM***

Little is known about the history of the region surrounding Aleck Meadow Reservoir prior to the creation of Black Rock Forest. According to Henry Tryon, Black Rock's first director, the reservoir occupies what was once a small dairy farm.<sup>1</sup> The terrain surrounding the reservoir supports this statement. The southern shore, although divided by stone walls into sections, remains far too rocky to have ever been farmed. The stones in these walls, all large and of similar size, instead suggest that these rock fences were used to enclose cattle rather than as borders to cultivated fields. The stumpage on the reservoir's eastern shore, along with the two cement and stone charcoal pits north of the Black Rock gate, indicates that at some point the area was also logged. A core sampling of fallen trees would determine the date of such cutting. The Aleck Meadow homestead may lie under the reservoir, or it may have been located below the dam along Black Rock Brook. There are foundation remnants on the western slope of Honey Hill that may have been associated with the Aleck dairy. The quarrying and larger charcoal pits on the reservoir's western shore are of a more recent date. The rusted stone crusher located near these pits was used by Stillman during the 1930s and 1940s. Workers employed by Black Rock also made charcoal here at this time.<sup>2</sup>

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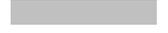
<sup>1</sup> Henry Tryon, "The Black Rock Forest," *Black Rock Forest Bulletin*, No. 1 (Cornwall, New York: 1930), 12.

<sup>2</sup> Babcock, interview with author, 20 May 1995.

Site #3: Aleck Dairy Farm  
 Location: Aleck Meadow Reservoir  
 Map Created by Neil M. Maher



**Legend**

- stone walls 
- water 
- trail 
- quarry & charcoal pits 
- scale 

