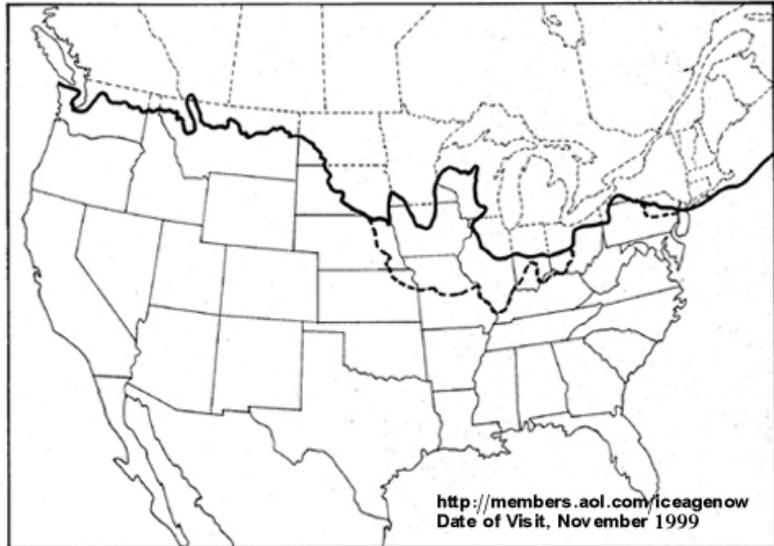


GLACIAL ERRATIC

43.5141 N, 72.1348 W

Glaciers, huge sheets of ice, moved across North America several times in the last million years. The last glacial advance began about 110,000 years ago with ice gradually advancing southward until 20,000 years ago. This part of New Hampshire is believed to have been covered by ice up to a mile thick, enough to cover all but the tallest mountains. As the glacier advanced, scouring the landscape beneath it, boulders were plucked from the mountains and carried southward like a slow-moving, icy conveyer belt. The debris the glaciers carried was



eventually dumped as the ice at the leading edge of the glacier melted, creating Cape Cod in Massachusetts and Long Island in New York. The map shows the southernmost extension of the Laurentide Glacier. About 15,000 years ago, the climate began to warm, and the ice sheet slowly receded, leaving behind huge boulders called glacial erratics. As you walk around the park, look for other erratics. Some may have come from nearby mountains; others from as far away as Canada.