

Only One Quarry Business Now At Work Where Once Large Industry Flourished

Part III, pg. 3

Mr. Sullivan is the owner of this quarry site at this time. Mr. Sullivan had many large contracts in the shape of churches or other public buildings.

Mr. Sullivan in October, 1927, purchased the St. Lawrence Marble Co. and hoped that operations might be resumed, but nothing could be done to revive the marble industry, except that some small contracts were gotten out. But little quarry machinery was in the quarry building, when it burned in October, 1953.

Rip Rap Rock

Resuming the Gouverneur Marble Co. history since 1905, Morris Eckmann, the manager, continued in that capacity and his company operated a large part of the time, but all the quarries for various reasons had frequent shut-downs in this period. When the Aluminum Co. of America wanted a large quantity of rip rap rock

for improvement of the St. Lawrence river canal leading to its electric power plant, the Gouverneur Co. shipped several hundred tons in the winter of 1918-1919. The rip rap rock is described as being very heavy stones supposed to be so heavy that once placed in the river as a weir for a canal, nothing would remove them. Later results are said to have partly nullified this belief.

Edward M. Hampton and his son, George M. Hampton, who had been operating as Edward M. Hampton & Son, with a shop in the end of the Gouverneur Marble quarry and mill from the Eckmann interests. The 1930 depression period was unfortunate for the Hamptons and they were obliged to cease work after about three years.

Charles A. Perry, 19 Wilson street, of the service department of the John W. Rouse Construction Co. furnished information to the author of this article to complete the final existence of the former Gouverneur Marble Co. quarry and mill. A contractor, Richard Jones of Syracuse, wanted a front for the Commercial Travelers Insurance Co. in Utica to match one of Gouverneur marble installed 50 or more years ago. Mr. Jones, a Welshman, with Mr. Perry of Syracuse, as his assistant, came here in the fall of

1935, at first intending to quarry the stone here and truck it to Syracuse, where it could be finished for building stone purposes. The Jones Cut Stone Co. decided in 1936 to buy the Gouverneur Marble Co. plant.

Local Uses

In 1936 the original Dean high school was having an addition built and the Jones Cut Stone Co. furnished the marble base from its quarry. In 1938 when the Gouverneur Savings & Loan association enlarged its building at 42 Church street, the Jones Cut Stone Co. furnished the marble for a new first story front. In 1914 the Bank of Gouverneur replaced the original brick front on its building at E. Main and Park streets, with a marble front, with Hampton & Son furnishing the marble. A fire in March, 1941 in the building next door to the Bank of Gouverneur resulted in the Bank of Gouverneur acquiring the adjacent store property and extending the marble front over its purchase, with the John W. Rouse Co. doing the work.

The Jones Cut Stone Co. did not have a priority rating enough to permit it to buy the necessary amount of supplies and the quarry and mill were closed. Charles I. Ruderman bought the property in 1942 and much of the machinery was sold as there was no apparent possibility that the marble business would be resumed here. In 1950 the modern office burned and in 1953, about half the quarry building was destroyed by fire.

Amasa Corbin, Jr.

Amasa Corbin, jr., equaled and perhaps exceeded Augustus L. McCrea in the matter of promoting mining companies, and in 1902 with Orrin J. David, just resigned from the Union Talc Co., started a mill north of this village, two miles out on the Clinton road for the manufacture of garnet abrasive, a product of the same nature as emery. This mill was situated on the left side of the road on what was then the Elbert C. Pool farm, but is now the farm of Maurice Peabody.

Mr. Corbin in describing the mineral of the rocks said, "It occurs in a singular condition, consisting of masses of crystals, the largest being about the size of a

marrowfat pea, embedded in a diorite matrix of extraordinary hardness. The crystals are so plentiful that they compose about half of the whole mass." The diorite matrix refers to the crystalline igneous formations of garnet.

A mill was built and machinery installed for production of garnet abrasive and operated for two years. Mr. Corbin said that carborundum and corundum were both effective competitors and the garnet mining business was concluded. The mine and mill was torn down and there are but few marks to show its brief existence.

Adirondack Pyrites Co.

In 1903 the Adirondack Pyrites Co. was formed to operate a mining business on the J. Frank Cole farm, five miles from Gouverneur on the Scotch Settlement road, to mine iron pyrites ore for the production of sulphuric acid. The company was headed by Amasa Corbin with Orring J. David, vice-president and Robert G. Dodge, secretary and treasurer. The mill had a capacity of about 100 tons per day. This business lasted but a short time, and the quarry was closed and the mine filled with water.

Cole Mine

In 1912, the Cole mine was pumped out by William J. Bulger. The New York Pyrites Co. now owned the lease. Mr. Bulger was foreman for a time and Robert Love succeeded him and John Wells was active in this mill. The new owners, also had acquired the former Stella mines at Hermon. F. T. Rubidge was the executive head and Otto F. Pattberg, the manager, both being from New York. G. Richard Trerise, now of 73 Park street, was the bookkeeper after World War 1.

There was a good demand for the pyrites product during World War 1, but sulphuric acid supplies from the brimstone wells in the south superceded pyrites mining. The interests that may work these mines have recently made some surveys that will permit operations in case the need should arise. Russell Wilson now owns the former Cole farm.

Limestone

In the fall of 1915, Harry H. Hodgkin and G. Wilson Dodds,