

CENTENNIAL  
SOUVENIR HISTORY  
OF  
GOUVERNEUR

ROSSIE, FOWLER, HAMMOND, EDWARDS,  
DEKALB

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COMMEMORATING  
"OLD HOME WEEK"  
AUGUST 24-30  
1905



WATERTOWN, NEW YORK :  
THE HUNGERFORD-HOLBROOK CO.  
1905

Winter of 1877-8. In the fall of 1877 their works were completely destroyed by fire and were rebuilt that fall, business being resumed in December. In the fall of 1878 they sold their marble business to A. S. Whitney, a younger brother, and a couple of years later P. R. Whitney, the youngest brother of the family, joined as a partner. They were together several years when they sold to Hurlbut & Dunkelberg, this firm being composed of E. B. Hurlbut and C. C. Dunkelberg. The former retired after a couple of years and was succeeded by Dunkelberg Bros., and later by C. C. Dunkelberg, who conducted it until his death in 1903. In the settling of his estate the stock and business were sold to Crooks & McLean who were and are conducting a similar establishment at Carthage, N. Y. They still continue the business at the old stand on William Street, Mr. McLean being the resident member. This has grown from a small undertaking in 1865 until at the present time, and for several years past, it has become by far the largest retail marble business in Northern New York.

From the first settlement of Gouverneur it had been the practice to blast out stone from ledges in nearby fields for foundation walls, road building and that class of work, but it was not until 1876 that quarry operations were conducted on any kind of a large scale. In the early spring of that year, D. J. & T. J. Whitney and John S. Honeycomb formed a partnership under the name of Whitneys & Honeycomb, and entered into a contract with the Town of Gouverneur to build the foundations of the present Main Street bridge, Honeycomb being only interested in the bridge contract and not the marble and cut stone business of the Whitneys. They entered into a lease with James K. Barney whereby they could quarry stone on his farm and selected a ledge back of his house as the place to make the opening, it now being the quarry of the Gouverneur Marble Co. There were two derricks erected and a large number of men employed during the year and several hundred cords of stone removed. The better class of this was utilized by the Whitneys for cut stone trimmings for buildings, bottom bases of monuments, etc., the balance being used in the bridge piers and abutments. The trimmings for the Presbyterian church at Canton came from this quarry. With the completion of the bridge contract in December, Mr. Honeycomb retired and Whitney Bros. resumed operations at the quarry in the Spring of 1877. During this year the stone for the County Clerk's Office at Canton, was got out as well as for several buildings in Gouverneur; among the latter were fronts for the Van Namee and Draper blocks. With the close of work in the Fall this quarry was not worked for several years or until purchased by the Gouverneur Marble Co. about 1886.

In the late Fall of 1877, the Whitneys quarried some stock on the other part of the Barney farm southwest of the Lazenby lot and close to the Somerville road. Some of this was worked up during the Winter and was the first that was made into monuments. About this time dark marble had come into demand for monumental work and during 1878 some from this quarry was sold in the rough to marble dealers for that purpose, as well as being worked up locally. During the Fall of that year, A. S. Whitney bought out the marble business of D. J. & T. J. Whitney and T. J. went to Vermont. D. J. retained the quarries which were operated by him quite extensively in 1879 and a large quantity of it shipped for monumental purposes to Canada, Michigan, Indiana and Illinois, as well as being in good demand in our own state. It was being put upon the market as Gouverneur Marble, but during this year some of the western dealers nicknamed it "Whitney Granite," which term or "Whitney" is still applied by dealers to some considerable extent throughout the country when speaking about the products of the different quarries here.

During the Spring of 1880 a misunderstanding arose between Whitney and Barney as to the terms of the lease and was followed by long litigation. Work was therefore abandoned at this opening and another opening made across the road, an arrangement having been made by D. J. Whitney with J. Bower Preston for a lease of part of the old Harvey D. Smith farm. Work was commenced on this lot July 1st, 1880. Up to this time quarrying had been done by taking advantage of the natural open seams and the use of plugs and feathers. Powder was also used in natural breaking places to loosen up large masses so that it could be broken to required sizes but as the new quarry could not be worked in this way hand channelling was instituted. About this time J. E. McAllaster became interested in the en-

terprise and the concern was called the Gouverneur Marble and Whitney Granite Co. An arrangement was made with a firm in Cleveland, Ohio, to saw the larger blocks while the smaller sizes were shipped to dealers as previously, either roughly broken or else pointed to size. A side track was put in during the Summer and followed in the Fall by a large steam power derrick. As hand channelling was a slow and expensive process it was replaced in the Spring of 1881 by a diamond drill channelling machine and this was the first modern quarrying machinery to be introduced here. Nov. 1st, 1883, an option was given on this property to New York capitalists and D. J. Whitney and his brother T. J., who had returned from Vermont ran this quarry for them under contract by the cubic foot until May 1st, 1884, when the option expired and they completed the purchase of the property and organized as the St. Lawrence Marble Co., retaining the services of both the Whitneys, D. J. staying in their employ until Aug. 1887, but T. J. has continued in the management up to the present time. A 16 gang mill was started in May and completed in the Fall and Winter. The Lazenby lot was also purchased about this time and about ten years later they acquired the fifty-five acre farm lot from the estate of J. K. Barney on which the first monumental marble was quarried. On account of insufficient capital being put in at the inception, coupled with some heavy business losses and a large falling off in their trade due to dull times, they went into receivers hands in Jan., 1896, and the plant was idle for several years but was bought in by M. M. Belding, one of the original stockholders, and a heavy creditor. He operated it successfully for about five years, and was succeeded in the fall of 1904 by the St. Lawrence Marble Quarries who are its present owners.

The next quarry venture in chronological order was made by John N. Baxter and John A. Sanford of Rutland, Vt., in the Summer of 1881. They were assisted in the prospecting for a couple of months by T. J. Whitney, who had returned from Vermont, but he was not identified with them in developing the quarry which was situated on the old Hamlin farm now owned by Vasco P. Abbott. The opening was made about one hundred rods directly back of the lime kiln but, after working it until the summer of 1883, they were not satisfied with the quality of the marble they were getting and abandoned the undertaking and removed the machinery to Vermont.

In 1881, T. J. Whitney and others prospected with a diamond core drill on the McKean lot near the present site of the Gouverneur mill and later acquired this piece of land, organizing as the Whitney Marble Co., the incorporators being S. B. Van Duzee, Lewis Eckman, T. J. Whitney, Daniel Peck, J. W. Tracey, Abel Godard, F. H. Haile, H. E. Gates, G. P. Ormiston, and three others whose names have escaped the writer's memory. The quarry was developed during the first year and was under the management of T. J. Whitney, who retired after one year and was succeeded successively in the following years by most of the stockholders who at different times took an active hand in the management. In 1882 or 1883, they built a 4 gang mill which was partially destroyed by a boiler explosion May 1st, 1884, in which six men lost their lives. Boiler makers were repairing the boilers and in testing them with steam, caused the explosion, and as the Watertown Steam Engine Co. sent these men to make the repairs they assumed practically all the responsibility, rebuilt the mill and settled the death losses. In 1886 they purchased three acres of the J. K. Barney home lot from E. B. Hurlbut, this being where Whitney Bros. & Honeycomb took out marble for the bridge and other work and it has been in continuous operation to the present writing. Owing to insufficient capital at the outset, and their original quarry not producing a satisfactory quality of marble, they went into the hands of a receiver in 1887, and in the Fall of 1888 were reorganized into the Gouverneur Marble Co., the principal parties interested being S. B. Van Duzee, Lewis Eckman, Daniel Peck and G. P. Ormiston. The following spring



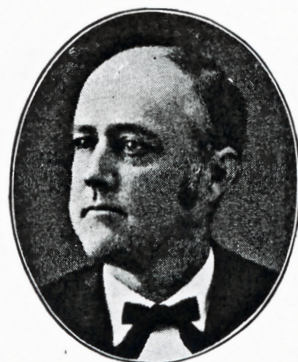
Lewis Eckman.

D. J. Whitney took the management and later became a stockholder and director. He had it in charge between 4 and 5 years during which time the mill was enlarged and other improvements made. He was followed in succession by Daniel Peck, A. Z. Turnbull and Maurice Eckman, who is in charge at present. In the morning of July 24th, 1904, the mill and other buildings were destroyed by fire and were rebuilt during the following Fall and Winter, sawing being resumed in March, 1905.

Davidson Bros., of Chicago, Ill., purchased about ten acres of J. B. Preston in 1888, it being part of the old Harvey D. Smith farm and opened up a quarry about sixty rods southwest of the St. Lawrence mill, E. B. Hurlbut being in charge. Several years later this was abandoned and a new opening made on the Milton Barney farm, formerly known as the Peter Van Buren farm, they in the meantime having purchased a portion large enough for their purpose. Their mill is at Watertown, N. Y., where the blocks are shipped for sawing. The concern is now known as the Watertown Marble Co., A. C. Davey being the general manager and Joseph Callahan in charge of the quarries.

The Empire State Marble Co., was organized in 1889 by D. G. Wood, J. W. Tracy, Gilbert Mollison and James Dowdle, the two latter being from Oswego, N. Y. They bought a part of the C. W. Overacker farm, opened a quarry and built a mill which was under the management of Mr. Tracy and later Mr. Esser, John Babcock and Mr. Mitchell. The plant was sold to the Empire Marble Co. in July, 1895, the parties interested being W. R. Dodge, R. G. Dodge, L. S. Lansing, D. J. Whitney, and others, Mr. Whitney having charge of the business. This plant was leased to the Northern New York Marble Co. from Jan. 1st, 1901, to Jan. 1st, 1904, since which time it has been operated by the D. J. Whitney Co.

Some prospecting was done on the back part of the Wm. Kitts farm adjoining the Empire plant, which resulted in the forming of the Northern New York Marble Co., in 1890. W. A. Beach, Geo. B. Massey, and John Webb, were the parties principally interested. Mr. Webb was manager about eight years followed for a year by D. J. Whitney, who divided his time between that quarry and the Empire, and was succeeded by A. M. Jepson



W. R. Dodge.

who is now secretary and manager. The Northern Crushed Stone Co. have a crushing plant on this property which is also in charge of Mr. Jepson. Their produce of crushed marble is used for road metal and concrete work.

In 1892 some preliminary work was done on part of the V. P. Abbott farm by the Oswegatchie Marble Co., those principally interested being V. P. Abbott, J. B. Abbott and a Mr. McGuire. They erected a derrick and put in some quarry machinery but discontinued after a few months, on account of the panic of 1893, and at present writing have not resumed.

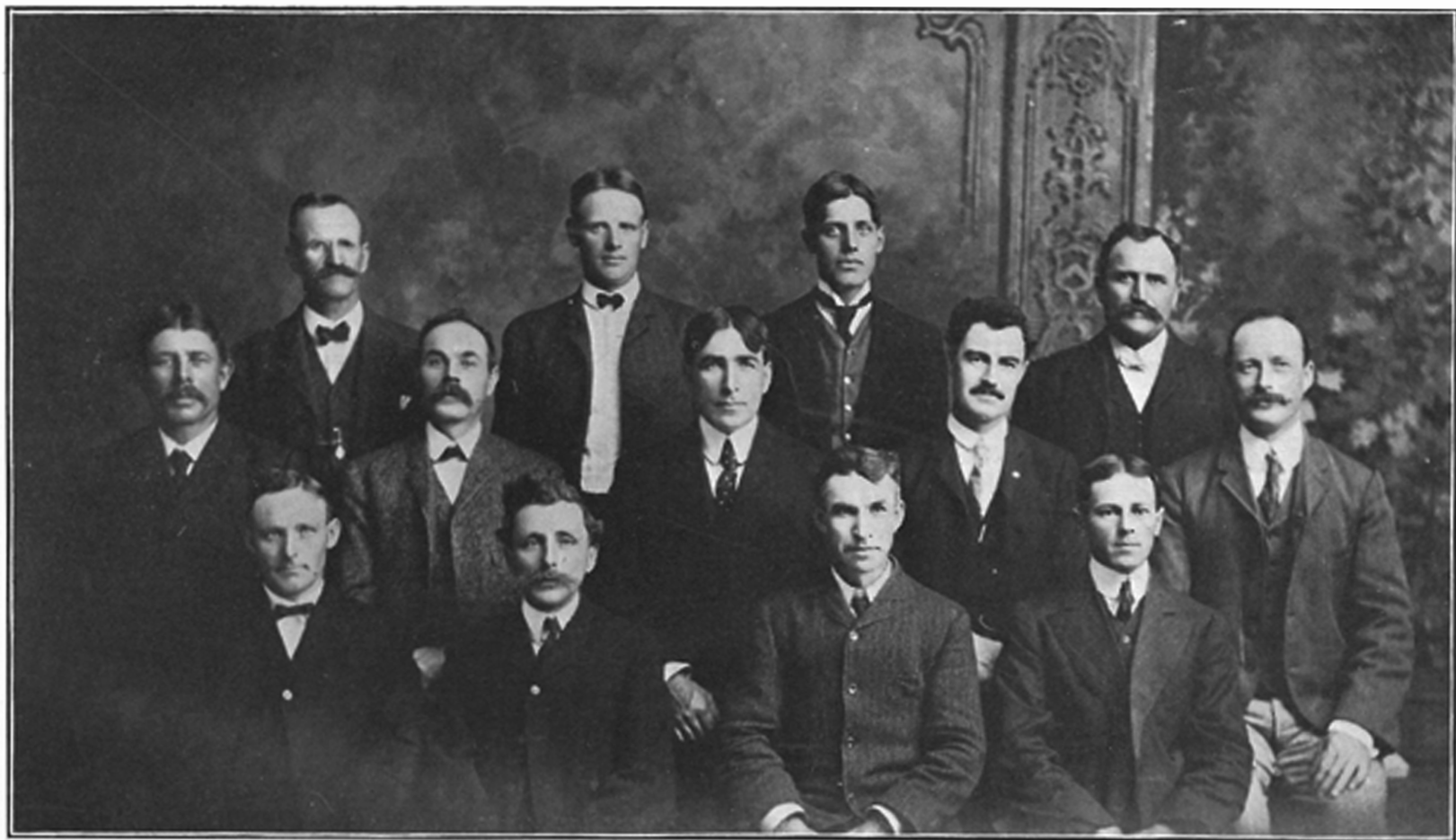
Five or six years ago J. W. Tracy and H. P. Bingwanger, the latter of New York, commenced the development of a quarry of light colored marble on the farm of Samuel Graves on the Scotch Settlement road. It has been only partially developed and at

present is not being worked.

The Gouverneur Cut Stone Co. started about six or seven years ago and was made up of five or six stone cutters part of whom retired after the first year or two leaving E. M. Hampton, Richard Mahon and O. B. Fisher interested. For the first two or three years they confined their efforts to building work, purchasing the sawed marble principally from the Gouverneur Marble Company, but later they branched out into finishing and wholesaling monumental marble. In 1902 they secured a lot from the Milton Barney farm owned by Mrs. G. B. Winslow and, after some preliminary work during that year, reorganized in 1903 into the



A. M. Jepson.



**THE STONE CUTTERS.**

Andrew Johnson, Joel Dahlquist, Robert Johnson, Lawrence Connell, Lee Collins, Robert McCaul, Edmond LaPointe, Edward Martin, Seymour Robinson, William Holden, John Jones, James McDonald, James Bodman.



O. B. Fisher

crystalline marble to be used for building purposes. From this beginning was organized in 1902 the White Crystal Marble Co., in which Chas. A. Lux, H. D. Brewster and others became interested with Whitney and Morrison. A mill was built that year and other improvements made so that they have been able to ship quite a large quantity of nice white building marble. D. E. Lux has been the manager since the retiring of Mr. Whitney and the death of Mr. Morrison.

Hulburt & Scholton formed a partnership and started in the wholesale marble and finishing business in March 1898, handling marble from the different quarries here as well as from other localities. Their first place of business was on the Somerville road near the Gouverneur and St. Lawrence quarries but in the course of about a year their quarters proved inadequate and they purchased what was known



Frank M. Norton.

as the old tannery water power and lot on which there was a large building and removed to same making required improvements to meet the wants of their largely increasing trade. E. B. Hurlbut retired from the firm in 1903 leaving D. G. Scholton sole proprietor.

D. J. Whitney commenced a regular wholesale marble business in 1901. In addition to handling products from different quarries here and in Vermont, he has the entire output of monumental stock from a blue marble quarry in Pennsylvania to dispose of. Quite a considerable quantity of this latter marble is brought here to be finished. The name was changed in January, 1904, and incorporated as the D. J. Whitney Co. They are operating the Empire Marble Co. plant in connection with their wholesale business.



D. G. Scholton

The St. Lawrence Finishing Co. is composed of P. R. Whitney and W. B. Moran, who started in 1902. They are located at the St. Lawrence Marble Quarries and are doing marble finishing and a wholesale business.

The production of marble is one of the leading industries of Gouverneur and gives steady employment to more than two hundred men in quarrying, sawing, finishing and other work in connection with preparing it for market. The greater part of the product is used for monumental purposes but building work takes quite a large quantity of the lower grades.

As a marble producer, New York State ranks third, the bulk coming from Gouverneur. Vermont largely takes the lead in marble production and is followed by Georgia, which slightly exceeds our state.