

The following information is taken from “**The Collection of Building and Ornamental Stones in The U. S. National Museum: A Hand-book and Catalogue**” in the *Report of the United States National Museum...For the Year Ending June 30, 1886*, by George P. Merrill, Curator, 1886, pp. 362-446. The entire section is available on our web site at this web address:

http://quarriesandbeyond.org/states/ca/stone_industry/ca-stone_indus_1886_history.html

California Limestones & Marbles. “...Near Indian Diggings, in Eldorado (sic) County, there occurs a fine-grained white, blue-veined marble that closely resembles the Italian ‘Bardiglio,’ from the Miseglia quarries, but that the groundmass is lighter in color. It has been used only for grave-stones and to but a slight extent at that. In Kern County are deposits of marbles of various shades, but all so broken and shattered as to be very difficult to work. Near Colfax, in Placer County, are also beds of a dark blue-gray mottled magnesian limestone that takes a good polish and might be utilized as marble. Other deposits occur in Los Angeles, Monterey, Nevada, and Plumas Counties, but none of them are at present worked. The most beautiful of all the California marbles is the massive aragonite, or so-called ‘onyx,’ from San Luis Obispo....”

“(A) travertine marble occurs in very limited amounts near the town of Suisun, Solano County. The quarry lies in a low hill near the town, and has been quite extensively worked, but no large pieces of even texture are obtainable, which is of course a drawback to its extensive use.

“Prof. H. G. Hanks, in a paper recently read before the San Francisco Microscopical Society, describes, under the name of ‘Inyo’ marble, a pure white crystalline dolomite occurring in the White and other mountains of the Inyo range in this State. It is regarded by him as an excellent stone, and one promising of future usefulness. Besides this he mentions a yellow brecciated marble found at Tehachipi, in Kern County, and a black marble

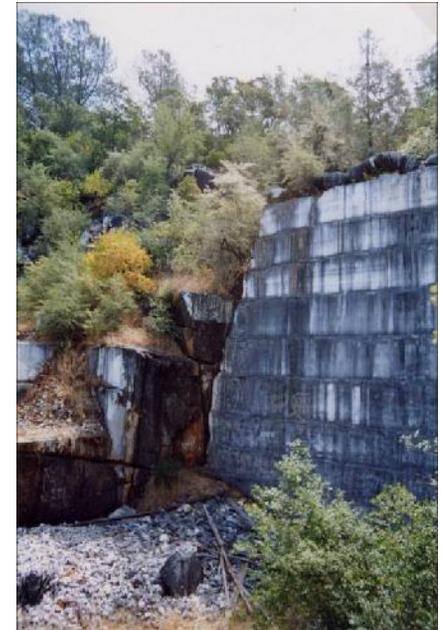
found near Colfax....”

California Granites. “It is stated that the first stone house erected in San Francisco was built of stone brought from China, and at the present day the granites most employed are brought from Scotland and the Eastern United States. However this may be, it is obvious that this condition of affairs need not long continue to exist, since granites of good quality occur in inexhaustible quantity in the near vicinity. As early as 1853 a granite quarry was opened in Sacramento County, and since then others have been opened and systematically worked in Penryn and Rocklin in Placer County. The Penryn works are some 28 miles east from Sacramento on the line of the Central Pacific Railroad. The first quarries were opened in 1864 and are now said to cover some 680 acres at Penryn and Rocklyn, the latter point being some 6 or 8 miles distant from the former in a westerly direction....”

“The buildings mentioned below have been constructed wholly or in part of these granites: United States Mint, new City Hall, new Stock Exchange, the Real Estate Associates’ building, and several private residences, and many monuments; all in San Francisco....”

California Sandstones. “Around the Bay of San Francisco there occur sandstones of a considerable variety of colors which are beginning to come into use to some extent. The prevailing colors here are brownish and gray. On Angel Island, in Marin County, there occurs a fine sandstone of a greenish-gray color, which has been used in the Bank of California building, and others of a lighter shade are found in various parts of Alameda County. A few miles south of San Jose, Santa Clara County, there are also inexhaustible supplies of light gray and buff stone, but which are at present worked only in a small way. Near Cordelia, Solano County, there occurs a coarse, dark-gray volcanic tuff, that can, perhaps, be utilized for rough construction should the occasion demand.”

Some California Stone Quarries



Peggy B. & Patrick (Pat) Perazzo
email: pbperazzo@comcast.net

Stone Quarries & Beyond:
Quarry Workers - Stone Cutters & Stone Carvers - Historical Dealers of Stone & the Finished Products
<http://quarriesandbeyond.org/>

California Stone Quarries
<http://quarriesandbeyond.org/states/ca/california.html>

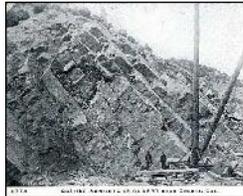
Structures Built of California Stone
<http://quarriesandbeyond.org/states/ca/structures/ca-structures.html>

Some California Stone Quarries

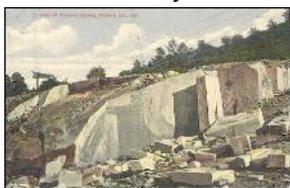
By Peggy B. Perazzo

Below are photographs of some of the quarries that supplied stone for buildings in California and elsewhere. You can learn more about these quarries and view photographs in the California state section of our web site.

Sandstone has been quarried east of Sites in Colusa County since 1886, according to historian John L. Morton. Below is an early 1900s photo of the Knowles quarry and a present-day photo. The old Yolo County Savings Bank building was constructed of Colusa County sandstone.



Sierra White Granite, quarried at Raymond/ Knowles in Madera County was used in the construction of the Yolo County Courthouse.

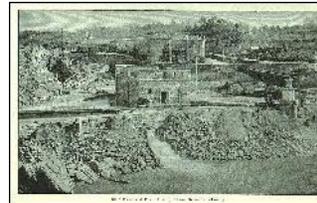


Marble quarrying began at Columbia in Tuolumne County in the early 1860s. In the next column is an early photograph of the Bell Marble Quarry, and on the front of this brochure is a present-day photo of this quarry. The other photo is of another early Columbia marble quarry.



Columbia Marble Quarries

The Folsom Prison granite quarry began producing stone as early as the mid-1850s in Sacramento County. Below is an early photo of the quarry and another of the Folsom State Prison and power house.



Sandstone quarried in Sespe Cañon in Ventura County was used in the construction of the Diggs building in Woodland. Below is a photo of the Digg's building (on the right) and a photo of the boulder quarry that was used to obtain the stone for the recent restoration of the Chronicle building in San Francisco. (Stone and photo provided by Kopelov Cut Stone, Inc., in Bernalillo, New Mexico.)



Benoit Bertholet, a stone cutter who immigrated from France, operated a sandstone quarry at Devil's Gate along upper Putah Creek from about 1892 until 1908. Monticello Dam is located there today, although we do not know if the quarry location is under the dam. Sandstone from this quarry, sometimes referred to as "Winters sandstone," was used in the construction of the Michael building and the Armstrong and Alge building, both on Main Street in Woodland; the Bertholet buildings in Winters; and cemetery stones and curbing at Winters Cemetery; in addition to other structures. Below are photographs taken by David Wilkinson of the trip he and Tom Potters took to investigate the location of the old sandstone quarry. Further below, are photographs of the Michael and Bertholet buildings and two sandstone cemetery stones.



