

“Mammoth Cave Memorial”

(the Soldier’s Memorial placed inside the main entrance of Mammoth Cave, today located in Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky)

In *The Monumental News*, Vol. 35, No. 4
April 1923, pp. 207-208

According to this article, the New Glasgow Marble Works of Glasgow, Kentucky sold the Soldier’s Memorial to the Barren County Post, American Legion. The memorial “within the main entrance of Mammoth Cave...” “The memorial itself is a comparatively plain slab of Vermont marble and is a product of the Proctor Shops....”

Included in these scans are the obituaries for D. W. Donaldson and John McKenzie Corskie, both of Barre, Vermont; and Mrs. Ida Malnati Hastings of New London, Connecticut.

“D. W. Donaldson, one of the pioneers in the Barre granite industry, both as a quarry operator with the old firm of McDonald Bros. and as a partner in the manufacturing firm of McDonald & Cutler...” John McKenzie Corskie was a former member of J. P. Corskie & Son of Barre, Vermont. Mrs. Ida Malnati Hastings was the head of the Malnati golden pink granite quarries at Niantic, Connecticut. “She was the daughter of the late Angelo Malnati, a prominent granite dealer and quarry owner of Quincy and Niantic, Connecticut...She is said to have been the only woman quarry owner in New England who managed her own business interests.”

This article, which begins on the next page,
is presented on the Stone Quarries and Beyond web site.

<http://quarriesandbeyond.org/>

Peggy B. Perazzo
Email: pbperazzo@comcast.net
July 2014

MAMMOTH CAVE MEMORIAL



MAMMOTH CAVE MEMORIAL

It is natural no doubt that memorials should be erected in many strange places. And it is by no means unusual to have them hidden from the light of day. Egypt had her underground burial chambers of the kings and Rome her famous catacombs. It is somewhat uncommon though to select a gloomy, unattractive cavern as the site for a modern public memorial.

This is virtually what was done with the Soldier's Memorial, which was sold last year by New Glasgow Marble Works, Glasgow, Ky., to the Barren County Post, American Legion. It was reared and dedicated amid the flitting glare of torches within the main entrance of Mammoth Cave. The reason why it rests there is that it may carry its message of patriotism to the greatest possible number of people, for it is a matter of record that visitors from all corners of the globe pass in and out of Mammoth Cave.

The dedicatory exercises were most impressive and inspiring, almost mysterious in fact. They came at the close of the Legion Convention which was held in Glasgow. Many of the men, including the chaplain of the legion and the speaker of the day, were still wearing the frocks and overalls which they had donned for the trip through the cave. The dim and smoky lights were all but overpowered by shadows. As the speaking ceased and the brothers in service gathered around the shrine, to deposit the hero lists in the marble box, it formed a picture totally unlike the ordinary unveiling scene. Then, as

a final touch of the unreal, the words of the benediction echoed hollowly among the recesses of the cave and the sound of taps in one of the distant grottoes was all but smothered by the immensity of the vast subterranean chambers.

In the address given that day by United States Senator Stanley of Kentucky, was this studied delineation of the purpose of the memorial:

"Monuments are erected to the living, not the dead. When the Old World shall have emerged from chaos and darkness, from the tyranny of the monarch, and the more intolerable despotism of the mob; when it shall have learned the great lesson of the rights and the worth and the power of unfettered, self-reliant manhood, and shall have established its institutions upon the foundation of the great Declaration, then generations yet unborn, nations now drenched in blood and in tears, shall commemorate their deathless deeds, shall erect tablets and monuments to their memory. And more enduring than bronze or sculptured marble, they shall live in song and story, so long as honor for valor or the love of liberty is enshrined in human hearts."

In attendance at the ceremonies, aside from the four hundred visiting legion members and other guests, were both the newly elected and the retiring commanders of the Department of Kentucky, American Legion. The occasion was made still more significant by the presence of four gold star mothers.

The memorial itself is a compara-



ENTRANCE TO MAMMOTH CAVE

tively plain slab of Vermont marble and is a product of the Proctor Shops. On the face is the sculptured emblem of the Legion and the following inscription:

"In memory of our fallen comrades of Kentucky and the American Dead of the World War."

On the base underneath, this lettering appears:

"Dedicated by the American Legion of Kentucky in Convention Assembled August 28-29-30-1922. Erected by Barren County Post at Glasgow."

As the time goes on, each sightseer who comes to Mammoth Cave, will be asked to place a small bit of stone back of the soldier's memorial. In that way it is hoped that this unassuming block of marble may attain a more than local prominence. It is hardly too much to expect that in the passing of years the memorial may take its place as a national shrine.

THE OBITUARY RECORD

D. W. Donald, one of the pioneers in the Barre granite industry, both as a quarry operator with the old firm of McDonald Bros. and as a partner in the manufacturing firm of McDonald & Cutler, died recently at his home in Barre. He was 67 years of age and had been in poor health for several years.

John McKenzie Corskie, a former member of the firm of J. P. Corskie & Son of Barre and a son of J. P. Corskie,

died March 3 after a long illness. He was 51 years of age and had been associated with his father in the granite business since leaving school until the business was sold a few months ago. He leaves a wife and two children besides his father and mother and a sister, Mrs. Orville Kew.

Mrs. Ida Malnati Hastings, head of the Malnati golden pink granite quarries at Niantic, Conn., died March 9, in New London, Conn. With Mrs. Hastings died her infant child. The bodies

were brought to Quincy, Mass., for interment.

Mrs. Hastings was the daughter of the late Angelo Malnati, a prominent granite dealer and quarry owner of Quincy and Niantic, Conn. On his death a few years ago Mrs. Hastings took charge of the management of the quarries in Niantic and became very successful. She is said to have been the only woman quarry owner in New England who managed her own business interests.

John G. Hardy, Providence, R. I., sculptor, has been awarded commissions to model war memorials to be erected in Boston and Marlboro, Mass., in honor of World War heroes from the state. The sketches submitted by Mr. Hardy have been returned to him and he is at present engaged in fashioning the full-sized models at his studio in Providence.

"America Unfurling the Flag," is the title of a war memorial which is being sculptured by Albert Jaegers, formerly of Cincinnati. It is to be erected at Orange, N. J., to commemorate the victory of America in the Great War. The statue is an equestrian creation of heroic sign. It shows that America, represented by a female figure mounted, having returned from the conflict, brings her charger to a full stop and unfurls the emblem of victory. Critics praise it as a work of art, uniting in an unusual degree the elements of beauty and power.

WHAT THE SCULPTORS ARE DOING

The Galbraith Memorial Committee of Cincinnati, Ohio, has awarded the commission for the bronze tablet for the Galbraith memorial to Clement J. Barnhorn, Cincinnati sculptor.

Lawrence Russo, of 15 Coal street, Wilkes Barre, Pa., at present engaged

as a sculptor on the new Public Library in Philadelphia has submitted a beautiful plan for the memorial clock tower proposed for Public Square in Wilkes-Barre. Mr. Russo is a nephew of A. N. Russo, sculptor of the John Mitchell memorial in Scranton.

FIRM CHANGES AND OTHER NEWS

Articles of voluntary dissolution were filed at Wheeling, W. Va., by the Granite Clay Products Company of North Mountain, Berkeley county.

The F. S. Thomson Stone Company has opened a marble quarry near Bethesda, Ark. The company is installing saws and a derrick, and later will put in a complete plant.

Dissolution notices have been filed with the secretary of state by the William L. Jones Granite Company of Williamstown, Vermont.

Northern New York Monument Co., Plattsburg, N. Y., has been incorporated with a capital of \$30,000. Incorporators are: E. C. and J. H. Gordon, M. Brennan. (Attorneys, Gordon, O'Connell & Long, Plattsburg.)

M. V. Mitchell & Son of Columbus, Ohio, have sold their monument business to the Bessey Granite Company of Columbus. The Mitchell Monument Company has been established for sixty-five years.

A new retail monument business has been opened in Zanesville, Ohio, under the firm name of McGee & Watson. Mr. Watson was formerly a salesman for the William C. Townsend Company and Mr. McGee spent twelve years in the designing department of the same company and three years as general manager of the Bessey & Winchell Monument Co. of Zanesville.

The Moretti White Marble Company have incorporated in Talladega, Alabama, for the purpose of operating the old Herd quarry three and one-half miles northeast of Sylacauga. G. Mo-

rett, the sculptor who first made use of the superior quality of Sylacauga marble, is president of the company, according to the incorporation papers. W. H. Boynton is treasurer and Berger Engstrom, secretary. The preferred stock of the company is placed at \$150.000, paid in, with \$2,500 shares of common stock of no par value.

The F. S. Thompson Stone Company has opened a marble quarry near New Orleans, La.

Mr. M. J. Choate of Nashville, Ark., died January 9. His shop was purchased and will be run by J. A. King in the future.

Commencing with March 1, 1923, the granite and marble business of Jenny & Nelbach will be conducted at 913 Columbia street, Utica, N. Y., under the firm name and style of J. J. Nelbach & Sons. The new firm will consist of Joseph J., Norbert M., and Alexis J. Nelbach.

The Cooley-Wright Manufacturing Company have been appointed sole distributing agents for Globe-H. C. Chilled Shot for the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and northern New York.

The Spellman Bros. Granite Co. of Sauk City, Wis., have recently bought out their competitor the Inter City Granite and Marble Works.

W. F. Waidely, proprietor of the W. F. Waidely Monument Works of Marshall, Michigan, who has been in the monument business since 1913, has purchased the property at the same location and has built an up-to-date shop,

35 x 72 feet consisting of show room, workshop 18 x 28 feet, and office; also garage 20 x 20 ft. all under one roof. Mr. Waidely has added new machinery and carries a good line of stock.

One of our illustrations shows a picture of the new and modern plant of the Dayton-Oldham Granite Works of Mason City, Iowa. This plant was designed from the ideas of Mr. C. G. Dayton of this firm and is laid out and equipped throughout with every modern convenience.

Julius H. Textor, secretary-treasurer of the Kansas association recently made an address before the Rotary Club of Leavenworth, on Side Lights on the Monument Business. He gave an unusually interesting presentation of the growth, progress and ideals of the craft, and explained in detail the technical work of the craft and the work of the associations from the public's point of view. His address was printed in full in the Leavenworth daily papers.

Otto Rathmann of the American Granite Co., Milwaukee, has recently received a letter from his father who went to Germany some time ago stating that he has purchased a magnificent estate there. It was formerly the palace of the sovereign of Thuringia, a small state in Germany. The estate consists of a splendid palace with all modern improvements and a beautiful park of three and one-half acres. All this was bought for four and one-half million marks or about \$150 in American money. Mr. Rathmann, Sr., was



MAMMOTH CAVE - ENTRANCE LOOKING OUT

ENTRANCE TO MAMMOTH CAVE



If you'd like to read more about the Mammoth Cave and the Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky, visit the following links:

Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky (includes a photo gallery)

<http://www.nps.gov/macn/index.htm>

Mammoth Cave National Park (on Wikipedia)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mammoth_Cave_National_Park2

Mammoth Cave Online

<http://www.mammothcave.com/>