“J. K. Pirie Estate, Barre, Vermont”
1882 – 1926
Pirie’s Genuine Barre Granite
J. K. Pirie Estate
Circa 1926

This brochure begins:

“The Scot is never at home except when he is traveling. This explains in part why J. K. Pirie, a journeyman stone-cutter, landed from Scotland at St. George, New Brunswick, in 1878. And he kept traveling. Maine was handy, so he worked his way down through the towns and cities of the coast until he came to Quincy in Massachusetts. From there he sought out South Ryegate in Vermont, and thence, in 1881, he arrived in Barre.

“Here the granite industry was just beginning. He decided to give up journeying and begin with it. With George Lamson he went prospecting into the hills for a likely boulder or two from which to cut monuments. They found a large and attractive one on a twelve-acre lot…So the two partners bought the twelve acres, and started to raise their own crop from its many boulders…Money was later needed for expansion. They borrowed it from their blacksmith, Sidney Wells. Out of this assistance came the firm of Wells, Lamson and Company, which remained as a co-partnership until Mr. Well’s death, when Mr. Pirie bought out his interest. The firm name was retained…in 1900 Mr. Lamson died. Three years later the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Pirie taking the dark quarry, and Mr. Lamson’s successors taking the light quarry and a manufacturing plant which the firm owned. Their part of the enterprise they sold to the Wells-Lamson Quarry Company...For eighteen years, Mr. Pirie continued to run and develop the dark quarry. By the time of his death, in 1921, its product was in the forefront of monumental stones…Mr. Pirie left his quarry as an open estate, to be run by his sons, and after them by his grandsons….” (J. K. Pirie’s sons were James G. Pirie and Fred F. Pirie.)

This brochure, which begins on the next page, is presented on the Stone Quarries and Beyond web site.
http://quarriesandbeyond.org/

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The Pirie granite quarry, from a photograph made in 1883. Ox-teams were the tractive power, and the size of stone was limited to their haulage.

1882-1926

(photo caption) “The Pirie granite quarry, from a photography made in 1883. Ox-teams were the tractive power, and the size of stone was limited to their haulage.
“Panorama of the Pirie quarry, 1926. The quarry is a deep bowl in the mountain top, giving clear stone on all sides. Grout is deposited clear of the quarry on the mountain sides, making room for development in any direction.” & “James G. Pirie, General Manager”
started to raise their own crop from its many boulders. Unable to hire labor, they did the work themselves. They worked nine hours a day, and walked back and forth from Barre, six miles each way, to do it. This was in August, 1882. The next spring they had business enough to hire a couple of cutters. Money was later needed for expansion. They borrowed it from their blacksmith, Sidney Wells. Out of this assistance came the firm of Wells, Lamson and Company, which remained as a co-partnership until Mr. Wells's death, when Mr. Pirie bought out his interest. The firm name was retained, the firm's holdings were increased by the opening of a quarry for light stone. In 1900 Mr. Lamson died. Three years later the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Pirie taking the dark quarry, and Mr. Lamson's successors taking the light quarry and a manufacturing plant which the firm had owned. Their part of the enterprise they sold to the Wells-Lamson Quarry Company. For eighteen years, Mr. Pirie continued

(Above photo includes the two columns in the middle of pp. 2.)
the mountain sides, making room for development in any direction.

to run and develop the dark quarry. By the time of his death, in 1921, its product was in the forefront of monumental stones. The rest is "as a tale that is told," for the granite has told it. Not without reason is Pirie's Barre stock known the nation over as an unexcelled memorial granite. Mr. Pirie left his quarry as an open estate, to be run by his sons, and after them by his grandsons. James G. and Fred F. Pirie, practical granite quarriers from their boyhood, now manage it. It is developed for years ahead.

To-day it employs 125 quarrymen, and is equipped with five modern derricks and the latest types of quarrying machinery. The quarry is in a remarkably strategic form. Clear stone can be taken out in any direction, without interference and by simple handling. And Pirie dealing, as always, is as honest and reliable as Pirie stock. You can always depend not only on Pirie's granite, but also on fair and courteous treatment with it. The general offices of the J. K. Pirie Estate are in Depot Square, Barre, Vermont.

(Photograph – above photo includes the last two columns of pp. 2)

"Fred F. Pirie, Production Manager"
“Panorama of the Pirie quarry, 1926. The quarry is a deep bowl in the mountain top, giving clear stone on all sides. Grout is deposited clear of the quarry on the mountain sides, making room for development in any direction.”

(Left side of photograph)
“Panorama of the Pirie quarry, 1926. The quarry is a deep bowl in the mountain top, giving clear stone on all sides. Grout is deposited clear of the quarry on the mountain sides, making room for development in any direction.”
(Center portion of photograph)
“Panorama of the Pirie quarry, 1926. The quarry is a deep bowl in the mountain top, giving clear stone on all sides. Grout is deposited clear of the quarry on the mountain sides, making room for development in any direction.”

(Right side of photograph)
A side wall of the Pirie quarry, and the men who have made it. Stone of the first quality is immediately available in any size at any time, and is delivered with the Pirie certificate, which guarantees it.

(photocaption) “A side wall of the Pirie quarry, and the men who have made it. Stone of the first quality is immediately available in any size at any time, and is delivered with the Pirie certificate, which guarantees it.”
Pirie’s granite is part of the first rock formed by the cooling of the earth — the oldest rock formation of millions of years ago.

(photo caption) “Pirie’s granite is part of the first rock formed by the cooling of the earth – the oldest rock formation of millions of years ago.”
This may have been the monument you ordered. If so, you got good stock, "the old reliable" Pirie. You can get the same today or any day.

(photocaption) “This may have been the monument you ordered. If so, you got good stock, 'the old reliable' Pirie. You can get the same today or any day.”
Monument of J. K. Pirie, a founder with a vision in the granite industry. It was designed after his own ideas. Many of the finest memorials in the United States are made of Pirie’s granite.

(photo caption) “Monument of J. K. Pirie, a founder with a vision in the granite industry. It was designed after his own ideas. Many of the finest memorials in the United States are made of Pirie’s granite.”
Down the mountain side of the Pirie quarry. But this side is the inside. The quarry is a granite mountain dug inside out, a crater 200 feet deep and 300 feet wide.

(photocaption) “Down the mountain side of the Pirie quarry. But this side is the inside. The quarry is a granite mountain dug inside out, a crater 200 feet deep and 300 feet wide.”