Granite Importers, Inc.

John A. Wilson Building located near Federal Triangle Building, Washington, D.C.

Thermal Georgia Grey granite used for the D Street entrance handicap ramp, planters and site walls. Entrance has six-cut finish to accent the moulding.

2,641 square-feet of materials used.
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About Our Cover
A Maple Grove At Barre's Elmwood Cemetery Turns To Gold This Fall Photo: Patrick Timothy Mullikin
Lucy Campbell, Sherm and Diane Cochran and Peter Burke

Cochran's, Incorporated

The team at Cochran’s, Inc., is best known for computer-age technology. “Actually, we blend Barre craftsmanship, computer technology and teamwork,” says Sherm Cochran, president and founder of the 23-year-old company. Originally a one-man operation (“Your Man In Barre”), the company now employs 13 people (“Your Team In Barre”). Cochran’s, Inc., resides in three sections of the former Cook, Watkins & Patch building on Blackwell Street. A complete, fully automated and air-conditioned sandblast facility was built in 1989. It includes one shaping room, one rose room and two automated blowing rooms. “Most of our nearly 5,000 sandblasted jobs are shape carved. We’ve developed a good deluxe, shaped rose,” says Sherm. “We also have a very efficient layout in our sandblast so that stones flow in and out quickly.”

In 1987, Cochran’s, Inc., developed its monumental computerized software, Cochran’s Quick-Cut Systems, which is marketed throughout the industry. Cochran’s now employs three full-time CAD operators in its computerized drafting department. Years of digitizing designs has given Cochran’s one of the most extensive computerized design series in the industry, Sherm says. Currently, Cochran’s has seven published design books and will soon print another, possibly in full-color.

Since 1995, Cochran’s, Inc., has been the pioneer of “laser-etching.” Sherm developed a machine to etch monuments with a laser and now markets Cochran’s Laser-Etching Systems. “The number of monuments being laser-etched increases weekly,” says Diane Cochran, who does the computer graphics for the laser-etching machine. Family monuments — with lettering, designs or portraits — and war memorials are being laser-etched daily at Cochran’s, Inc. With six brochures full of laser-etched designs, Cochran’s customers can choose standard Laser-Etched Designs, which are priced similar to its regular sandblast prices. Custom laser-etched designs, as well as portraits, are also popular. They are available for a reasonable price, says Diane. “We purchase our monuments from manufacturers and add whatever the customer desires — starting with computer drafting to sandblasting or laser-etching. And we sell our systems for customers who need to produce their own monuments. Combining computer technology and Barre craftsmanship produces high-quality memorials, quickly and cost-effectively,” says Sherm.
Mike Pelkey runs his fingers over a section of a huge pedestal-like granite sculpture that his company has been working on for several months. He points out that the intricate shape carvings of dragons and oriental designs have been carved in a special way to look weathered. "The customers wanted it that way, to copy an existing piece. Many sandblast shops turn down jobs like this because they're too complex and time-consuming," Pelkey says. "As a custom shop, however, this is what we do for a living."

Over the years, Memorial Sandblast Company has made a name for itself as a custom shop that will tackle the offbeat job. It was founded in 1967 by John Pelkey Sr., one of three family members named John: Son John owns and operates Mobile Sandblast Company, a BGA Associate Member, while another son named John (who goes by John-John to avoid confusion) works at Memorial Sandblast Company. In 1984, the company relocated to its present location on Blackwell Street in a complex that was once home to granite manufacturer Cook, Watkins & Patch. John designed his new facility for efficiency: The blowing rooms made it possible for two stones to be worked on simultaneously. Their roofs could be opened from above to make moving stones easier. He also opted for the cart system over rollers. It was shortly after the move, however, that John Sr. underwent quadruple bypass surgery, which set off a series of debilitating strokes that would leave him unable to manage the company. He turned to sons Mike and Robert, who were then 19 and 16. Both boys knew the basics of sandblast. Robert was especially talented in shape-carved roses; Mike was attending Champlain College in Burlington as a business student.

The transition worked. Both boys are now owners of the company, and the business has remained a family-owned business with Mike's wife, Sharon, and Robert's wife, Brynn, working in the upstairs office. With its 10 full-time employees, Memorial Sandblast Company offers sandblast services to a variety of customers including area granite manufacturers. What's more, Mike and Robert have an incredible resource in their father who has great knowledge of the sandblast trade. "There are times when I can't figure out a problem, and I'll ask Dad," Mike says. Chances are he's encountered the same problem before and has the answer. He's invaluable."
IN MEMORIAM

HILLSIDE STONE PRODUCTS, INC., founder Edmond J. Carbonneau, 72, died at his Barre home on Sept. 30, 1999, surrounded by his family. Born in Graniteville, Vt., on Feb. 6, 1927, he was the son of Edouard and Rosa (Bourget) Carbonneau. He attended Holy Ghost School in Graniteville, was a graduate of Spaulding High School class of 1945, and a veteran of the United States Army — serving from 1945 to 1946 in Germany as a field lineman and switchboard operator. He returned to Barre and joined the former People's National Bank as a teller. On Apr. 15, 1950, he married Colette Savoie, who survives him, at St. Monica Church in Barre. He left the bank in

1954 and, with a partner, formed the Hillside Saw Plant, becoming its sole owner in 1960.

CHECK THIS OUT

VERMONT GOVERNOR HOWARD DEAN, M.D., presented the Vermont Granite Museum of Barre with a legislative check for $100,000, in July. The museum will be located in the former Jones Brothers Company granite manufacturing plant, which, on Sept. 11, was the site for the second annual Barre Granite Festival.

Top row, left to right: Sen. Bill Doyle; Museum Board Member Jeff Martell; Barre Mayor Paul Dupre; Rep. Ruth Towne; Museum Director Marcia Davis; Barre City Councilman and Museum Board Member Peter Anthony; Barre Town Selectman Charles Fantoli; and Barre City Councilman Leo Valliere. Bottom row, left to right: Rep. Paul Poirier; Museum Chair Norm Akeley; Gov. Dean; Sen. Vince Illuzzi Jr.; Rep. Oreste Valsangiacomo Sr.; Sen. Anne Cummings; Barre Town Selectman Chip Castle; and Sen. Jeb Spaulding.
LASER FARE AT PEERLESS

PEERLESS GRANITE COMPANY IS TAKING the art of etching to new heights: with the purchase of a laser etcher. The laser etcher is capable of combining the look and feel of a hand etching but with a precise rendering of the original portrait. It does so by scanning and digitizing a photograph or drawing. This digitized image is then etched, burned actually, with a laser-tipped “cutting tool,” on the stone. The result is an exact copy of the original, which can be stored for future use. The laser etcher was developed in 1995 by Sherm Cochran of Cochran’s, Inc., shown in inset above with Peerless President Bret Mugford. Peerless Granite is one of the first manufacturing companies to add this new technology to its production line.

AN EDITOR’S LEAST-FAVORITE JOB IS fessing up to errors, especially really dumb ones. I’d like start the new decade, century and millennium fresh, however, with a clean conscious by setting the record straight. Clockwise:

1) The young man in the striped shirt is Adam Martin, not Adam Miles as he was identified incorrectly in the Summer 1999 issue. Adam works at Miles Supply Company of Barre and Elberton, Ga.

2) The woman standing to the left of the life-sized statue of Perry Como (also featured in the Summer 1999 issue) is Mrs. Terri Como Thibadeau, the singer’s daughter.

Gaydos Monument Company, Cannonsburg, Pa., is the retailer; Stanislaw Lutostanski, also pictured, is the sculptor; and Adams Granite Company is the manufacturer.

3) And finally, in the Winter 1999 issue, Andrea Carbonneau (back row, center), wife of Hillside Stone Products President and BGA Trustee Randy Carbonneau, was listed in this group photo as an unidentified guest. She is flanked by Skip Poczobut, left, and Dave LaCroix. Seated, from left, are: Sue Poczobut (Skip’s wife), Nancy LaCroix (David’s wife) and Nancy Martell (wife of Jeff Martell, not shown).
Knights To Remember

When the Knights of Columbus Bishop Brady Council #399 marked its 100th anniversary on July 23, it did so with style and endurance — with a Barre Gray granite memorial. The all-steeled memorial was a gift to the Knights of Columbus from various members of the granite industry, many of whom are members of the Knights of Columbus. Those donating to the memorial include:

Colombo Stoneworks, design
Granite Industries of Vermont, fabrication
Rouleau Granite Company, sandblast
Granite Corporation of Barre, installation.

From left: Grand Knight Robert H. Manard; Bishop Kenneth A. Angell; and Deputy Grand Knight Skip Poczobut at the dedication ceremony.

A Real Milestone

When Miles Supply Company throws a picnic, it doesn't fool around. On August 13, the 45-year-old company honored the granite industry at-large with a huge chicken barbecue — huge as in 1,200 meals. The company took it one step further and hand-delivered meals to virtually all employees of area granite companies not able to attend the on-site event. The picnic was part of company's 45th anniversary celebration. Miles Supply Company, founded in 1954, and under the ownership of Charlie and Doris Martin, and help from their son, Adam, and son-in-law, Kevin Spaulding, has since grown to two locations: Elberton, Ga. and Barre.

A few of the hundreds of people who enjoyed Miles' chicken barbecue.
NEWSPAPER 3

NE W A R O U N D T O W N

GRAVEN IMAGES

ANY MEMORIALIST WILL TELL YOU
that the monument business is
really a business of fine art and
that the cemetery is, therefore, an art
gallery. It appears that the art world, too,
has come to this realization.

A Country of Souls, Reflections of New
England Gravestones, a traveling exhibit
featuring the works of four area artists,
stopped at Montpelier's T.W. Wood
Gallery and Arts Center from August 24
- October 4. A few examples from this
unusual exhibit are shown above. The
exhibit's four artists — Joan Curtis,
Kerstin Nichols, Carolyn Shattuck and
R.G. Solbert — met two-and-a-half years
ago to collaborate on an exhibit. They
decided to turn to New England's
cemeteries for their inspiration: "All of us
shared an awe for the evocative qualities
of these sites," they said.

FALL 1999
Notes & Comments

John P. Castaldo...former BGA manager of finance and administration, was named Barre Granite Association Executive Director by the Board of Trustees at its October 26 meeting. Castaldo, who has been with the Association since 1995, succeeds former Executive Vice President Lewis A. Shattuck, who served from 1992-1996. The BGA had been without a formal leader since Shattuck's departure.

Robert Plante...of Colombo Stoneworks has joined the BGA Board of Trustees as its newest member. Plante and his wife, Gwen, purchased the former Colombo Granite Company in 1997.

Peerless Granite Company...is donating a memorial to what has been an unmarked pauper's grave in Barre's Hope Cemetery for nearly 75 years. Buried there are three of four young brothers who were killed in the Great Flood of 1927. Peerless was contacted by Barre's Patricia Belding who wrote a book about the flood last year. (She also wrote an article about the flood for the Winter 1999 issue of Barre Life.) The memorial will mark the final resting place of Ralph Thomas, 11, and his brothers Clyde, 9, and Dean, 7. It will also acknowledge the passing of 5-year-old Carroll, the youngest Thomas boy, whose body was swept away and never found.

Keeping in Step

After years of constant use, the front entry stairway and walkway at Kimball Public Library in Randolph, Vt., lapsed into such a state of disrepair (see inset, bottom right) that a community benefactor commissioned their restoration. The charge was to maintain the function and beauty of the library by using all existing granite. Restoration specialists Joseph B. and Joseph V. Calcagni of Granite Corporation of Barre dressed the granite to meet up-to-date specifications, cleaned, and reset it on a new foundation. They straightened and shimmed conglomerate stone cheek walls to their original places, and replaced the old galvanized pipe railing with a new wrought-iron design that incorporated current specifications. GCB did all work, design, dismantling, modifications and resetting.
A STATELY STATEHOUSE

FOR THE SECOND TIME THIS DECADE (the first time was the Vermont Bicentennial Celebration held during the summer of 1991), Vermont’s granite statehouse was festooned in red, white and blue bunting and banners. The occasion this time? To honor its native Son: Spanish-American War Hero Admiral John Dewey. Dewey, whose rousing success in Manilla Bay helped end that war in 1898, returned to his hometown the following year. There, he was honored with a huge parade on October 12, 1899. On that date, all of downtown Montpelier, which really hasn’t changed all that much, was decorated in red, white and blue. The centennial of Dewey’s return to Montpelier was marked with another parade, weeklong celebrations and an actor portraying the decorated admiral.

MBNA VISITS BGA AUGUST 23 & 24

Greg Parzer, executive director of the Monument Builders of North America (second from right), and Current MBNA President Michael Brannon, president, Brannon Monuments, Dubuque, Iowa, visit with Doug Mureta (left), the BGA’s John Castaldo (center) and Lynda Mureta Aldrich (right) at Montpelier Granite Works. While in Barre, the two toured various manufacturing plants, including LaCross Memorials, Inc., (shown here flanked by LaCross owners David and Gary LaCroix, and Castaldo) and were honored with a reception at the BGA office (shown here with BGA Trustees Bob Couture of Family Memorials, Inc., Jeff Martell of Granite Industries of Vermont, and Franne Whitney Nelson, Death Education Consulting).
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<td>Matthew R. Couture</td>
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*Indicates Voting Member Status
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SUPPLIERS
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Ordway Electric Machines
Carroll Ordway
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Washington, VT 05675
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*Indicates Voting Member Status
LaCross Memorials, Inc.

From The LaCross Archives

Classic all-steeled Barre Gray memorial with full-round statue
Culture Craft Sandblast Company

*Empire Granite Co. • Worcester, Mass.*

Barre Gray Die: 2-8 x 1-0 x 6-6 • Wings: 1-10 x 0-8 x 3-0
Drafting & Sandblasting: Culture Craft Sandblast Co. • Granite: Adams Granite Co.
North Barre Granite Company

Barre Gray Die: 2-10 x 0-10 x 4-6 • Base: 6-2 x 1-2 x 0-6
Riverton Memorial, Inc.

S. Banicoat • Middleboro, Mass.

Barre Gray and Impala Black Memorial • Overall Size: 3-10 x 3-10 x 6-4
Montpelier Granite Works
W. F. Benedict & Son • Middletown, N.Y.

Steeled Barre Gray Memorial • Overall Size: 8-0 x 1-4 x 0-8
Gandin Brothers, Inc.

Medium Barre
Post: 0-6 x 0-6 x 4-0
Cap: 0-10 x 0-10 x 1-3

Rouleau Granite Company

Medium Barre
Right Die: 3-0 x 0-8 x 2-8
Left Die: 2-0 x 1-0 x 3-0
Base: 6-0 x 1-4 x 0-8
CLASSIC & CONTEMPORARY

Granite Industries Of Vermont
Geiger & Sons
Erie, Pa.

Crystal Black Die:
5-0 x 0-8 x 2-5
Base: 6-6 x 1-2 x 0-8

Brookside Memorials, Inc.
Eric Schlosser Memorials
Whitehall, Pa.
Colombo Stoneworks, Inc.
Cecil Vault & Memorial Company
Wilmington, Del.

North American Pink
Die: 3-6 x 0-8 x 2-4
Base: 4-6 x 1-8 x 0-8

Twin City
Custom Sandblast

All-Polished Mountain Rose
Die: 2-4 x 0-8 x 2-10
Blessed Mother In 2½ Relief
### Item Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price Each</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A.</td>
<td>Bolo tie with leather-look cord, $15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.</td>
<td>Letter opener, $15</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>C.</td>
<td>Pick and shovel granite tie pin, $5</td>
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<tr>
<td>D.</td>
<td>Shovel granite tie clip, $5</td>
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<tr>
<td>E.</td>
<td>Leaf-mount granite earring set with either surgical steel French hooks or</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>posts (specify on order form), $12</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>F.</td>
<td>8&quot; x 8&quot; Barre Gray granite clock, $40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G.</td>
<td>Set of 4 BGA Pilsner glasses, $20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.</td>
<td>Heritage clock, $30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I.</td>
<td>Heritage clock, $30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J.</td>
<td>Heritage clock, $30</td>
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<tr>
<td>K.</td>
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<tr>
<td>L.</td>
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<td>M.</td>
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<td>N.</td>
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<td>O.</td>
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<tr>
<td>P.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q.</td>
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<tr>
<td>R.</td>
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<td>S.</td>
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<td>T.</td>
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<td>U.</td>
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<td>V.</td>
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<td>W.</td>
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<td>X.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Y.</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z.</td>
<td>Heritage clock, $30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other Publications

- Q. Barre Granite Heritage, $4.95
- R. The Story of Granite, $2.50 each

### Shipping Charges

- Free Barre Guild window decals. Specify quantity on order form.
- Shipping Charges:
  - Orders to $ 15.00: add $ 4.50
  - $15.01 to $ 50.00: add $ 6.50
  - $50.01 to $100.00: add $ 7.50
  - Over $100.01: add $11.00

### Payment Method

- Visa
- MasterCard
- Check/Money Order

- Card Number: ____________________________
- Expires: ________/_______
- Signature: ____________________________

### Addresses

- Name: ____________________________
- Company: ____________________________
- Address: ____________________________
- City: ____________________________
- State: __________________ Zip: ____________
- Phone: ____________________________

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**Write, Call, FAX: Barre Granite Association, P.O. Box 481, Barre, VT 05641 • 802-476-4131 • FAX 802-476-4765**

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**FALL 1999**

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**BARRE LIFE**

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**23**
THE LAST HAUL. Maurice Thompson Sr. of Stockbridge, Vt., was carried on the back of a log truck driven by his son, Delbert, from his Oct. 12 memorial service at the Gaysville Community Church in Bethel, Vt. The log truck rolled past his family home on to his final resting place. Thompson, a trucker with ties to the granite industry, hauled logs for 52 years.
Granite Corporation Of Barre

Steeled Barre Gray memorial designed by Joseph B. Calcagni