The Magazine of the Barre Granite Association
Manufactured for:
Malatino Construction Corp.

NEW YORK STATE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES MEMORIAL

ALBANY, NEW YORK
BARRE BB 10-0 x 9-10 DUSTED FINISH

The monument is engraved with the Tree of Life. Stainless steel EMS logo plaques are set into recesses along many of the branches. The hand tooled raised rope on the base is surrounded by a polished border. Engraving by BGA member firm Adams Granite Co.
Notes from the Executive Director

Summer is in full swing here in Vermont, along with BGA members who are working diligently to fill all your orders. During the summer months, it’s fascinating to walk through the granite plants and see the “buzz” going on as order after order is filled. Among the things that most impresses me is the high quality of workplace safety that BGA members have created for their employees. A secure and safe work environment is something that our members have remained in close touch with for many years. You can always rest assured that domestic manufacturers pay strict attention to safety because they recognize how important employee health is within the company. Their first and primary concern is the welfare of all their employees. When you purchase from domestic manufacturers, you know that they not only offer quality products, but also a quality work environment for their employees. Unfortunately you will not find that degree of concern with foreign manufacturers, so this is another very important reason to support domestic workers. In studying about worker conditions in other countries, I have come across the following information. According to statistics in a 2002 hygiene report, of 510,000 workers in state-owned and collective enterprises in Guangxi Province, 146,000 have worked with toxic chemicals but only 22.3% received a medical checkup. 55.06% of enterprises have not reported incidents of occupational disease to the Department of Health. Over a half of all enterprises have not established a system to prevent and manage occupational disease, and 56.74% of them have not established prevention and monitoring systems for hazards, files for occupational health or for monitoring workers’ health, and notices for danger.

Pneumoconiosis is a serious occupational disease in China. Up until December 2003, there were more than 7,100 cases in Guangxi, of which 1,587 ended in death. Silicosis is one of the most serious types of pneumoconiosis. The Director of the Guangxi Research Centre on the Prevention of Occupational Disease, Huang Jiale, said there are 5,000 silicosis patients who contracted the disease before 1995 and have not applied for work injury insurance. Only about 500 of them can have access to suitable medical care. A number of enterprises refuse to provide the cost of medical care to workers; they only provide 2 to 300 yuan for living expenses per month, but silicosis patients need 2 to 3,000 yuan each month for medical care and living expenses. It became quite apparent that the United States is leagues ahead in providing a safe working environment in manufacturing plants. I know this type of information makes me think about the products I purchase.

The State of Vermont is nearing completion on a survey of the state’s bedrock. This survey will be the first one to be completed since 1961 and there is a lot of excitement by geologists because of the advances in technology since then. The geologists have determined that the granite in Vermont is 368 million years old. The report states that Vermont has produced an abundant amount of quality granite, marble, slate, and talc. With such a valuable resource at hand, the granite industry in Barre will be producing quality products for many years. The state’s study of the geography of Vermont, the safety of workers, and the high standards that Barre manufacturers adhere to, insures you are purchasing a high quality product from an industry that is proud to live by those standards. Remember, if you have a problem with Barre products, it will be resolved quickly and professionally because Barre will always live up to its excellent reputation. See you all in the Fall 2004 issue.
One of the most enjoyable aspects of the position, of editor and photographer of Barre Life, is meeting with BGA members and new members at their studios, offices and manufacturing facilities. Talented stone sculptor Eric Oberg lives and works in a rural farm setting near Maple Corners. Todd Anderson is an enterprising, energetic, highly skilled granite craftsman who recently purchased the former Rivard Granite Co. Randy Walker offers large size laser etching service with fast turn around times at Stevens Branch Enterprises. Kim Berrian, a new supporting member in the commercial insurance field, bases his approach as a system theory using the insights of W. Edwards Demning.

Every issue also features long-standing members and improvements in technology. North Barre Granite Co. and Colombo Stoneworks showcase some of their fine memorials and sculpture. LaCross Memorials has added a state of the art sandblast operation with automatic and artisan options to improve their efficiency and turn around time.

Summer is a great season to photograph some of the fine BGA memorials in your area that you have had a part in creating. We welcome your prints and CDs. Barre Life continues a commitment to showcase your work in order to best meet the needs of creating the finest granite products for your client.

Enjoy the coming months.

Best Regards,

Jim Eaton, Editor

I welcome your comments and input via e-mail eatonj@barregranite.org or by mail, BGA, P.O. Box 481, Barre, VT 05641

COVER

Colombo Stoneworks, Inc.

Manufactured for:
Rex Monumental Works
NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS
MEDIUM BARRE DIE: OVERALL SIZE 8-6
ALL STEELED AND DUSTED
SANDBLAST CARVING WITH HAND TOOLING
MEDIUM BARRE BASE: OVER 5-0, STEELED

Inside Front Cover
Granite Importers Inc.

Suitable for Framing
Buttura & Gherardi
Granite Artisans

Back Cover
Granite Industries of Vermont
The new Board of Trustees presided at the 115th annual meeting of the BGA at the Hilltop Restaurant on June 9th.

Trustees of the Barre Granite Association 2004
(L to R) Judee Chatot, North Barre Granite Co.; Mark Gherardi, Buttura & Gherardi Granite Artisans; Bret Mugford, President, Peerless Granite Company; James Tait, TCS Memorials; Michelle Mureta Parker, Treasurer, Montpelier Granite Works

At Adams Granite Company Ed Patterson transforms a quarry split block of granite into a boulder. Some people may imagine that granite boulders are lying around in the hills. The truth is that it takes skill, experience and physical strength to do this type of stonework. Understanding how and where the granite will split is very important.

The block was jointed so the work could begin. Drill marks from the quarry process are visible. Ed made cuts using a hand held diamond saw, then did most shaping with a bull set and sledge hammer. He also used a hammer and chisel to pitch away the relief section to create depth and form the shape. The air suction unit shown removes fine dust particles in compliance with U.S. safety regulations.

A Barre Life reader saw this finished boulder, produced by Peerless Granite, Inc., in the Winter 2004 Barre Life and asked, How does a granite block become a boulder?
U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy and Vermont Governor Jim Douglas were among the scores of people that attended the official opening of the Stone Arts School’s permanent home at the Vermont Granite Museum of Barre in the former Jones Brothers Co. building. Although the May 22nd event was the public’s first view of the facility, students of Giuliano Cecchinelli had moved in earlier in the month, to begin their Saturday morning clay modeling class.

Visitors were impressed by the progress, particularly the sandblasting equipment designed and installed by “Pop” and Bill Chaloux formerly of Smith, Whitcomb & Cook. Anita Lucero, one of the school’s regular instructors, also treated them to a demonstration of etching on black granite. It was the work of clay modeling students, however, that seemed to draw the most attention. Ranging from seven years old to forty-something, the students meet every Saturday morning for three hours. Although the class was only in its third week, the progress and the potential of the program were easily recognized. In fact, the opening resulted in new students signing up for future class.

The following week Gary Goodwin offered a class in cemetery fieldwork, and a full schedule of classes will be announced in early July.

For more information on the Stone Arts School contact Tom Belville, Coordinator, at 802-476-4605

STONE ARTS SCHOOL
802-476-4605 - Fax 802-476-6866
P.O. Box 282, Barre, VT 05641
info@granitemuseum.com
www.granitemuseum.com
The Celtic Warrior is a larger than life sized figure in Impala granite on a 5'6" brown granite log, with 3 bronze elements: brooch, sword hilt and shield boss. The shield is Impala granite, 30" in diameter.

The figure was carved from a single block, then cut away from the base of the block and fitted to a hand carved brown granite log. The six separate elements (including the bronze) were dry fitted at the studio and assembled on site. The log and figure were raised 50' above the treetops and lowered into a dense stand of pines onto the foundation. The Warrior will be part of a group of three Celtic figures at a private summer residence in the Adirondacks. The project took 8 months to complete.

This original design by sculptor Jerry Williams of Barre Sculpture Studios was jointly executed by Williams and apprentice Gampo Wickenheiser.
During the past winter LaCross Memorials has added all new state of the art sandblast, computer assisted design drafting equipment and facilities providing computer controlled and traditional operations. These improvements provide the highest quality services to their customers. LaCross Memorials can now take care of all of your sandblast needs from drafting to the finished product on every type of stone available in the industry. LaCross Memorials continues to manufacture fine monuments, now with complete sandblast and design services to maintain a competitive edge in the granite industry.
It is great to see "all the wheels turning" at the former Rivard Granite Company. As I walked around the plant with Todd Anderson, the new owner, his experience in the industry was evident. He wanted to highlight some of his special services as well as his company's ability to "duplicate any monument, any color, any size and any shape. Their special services include:

- RAISED LETTERS
- HAND TOOLED V SUNK LETTERS
- OGEE MOLDS
- SCOTIAS
- RABBETS

Anderson is a 34-year-old true granite craftsman with hands on experience that began with a foundation studying at the Spaulding High School Stone Trade Program

Anderson Finishing Co.
Todd Anderson
8 Mill Street
P.O. Box 425
Barre, VT 05641
800-231-8045 / 802-476-8614
Fax: 802-476-8408

Robert Rivard assists Todd, using his 45 years of experience. He enjoys working with granite in the mornings, now as an Anderson employee.

An Invitation to Submit Photographs of Granite Memorials and Products

Barre Life Magazine encourages readers to send photographs of memorials and other granite projects to be considered for publication.

The Criteria - The projects were created by the BGA firm or firms listed in the Membership Directory. Include relevant information including your company name and the BGA firm with approximate sizes. Photo credit will be published as well if you choose. Quality work submitted in print, slide or digital form will be accepted. Consider sending a few images to Barre Life in the coming months.

Label submissions "READER PHOTOS". Every effort will be made to return photos after publication. 5 x 7 or 8 x 10 inch reprints, duplicate slides or digital copies on CD or 3.5" disk are recommended.
Berrian Insurance Group, Inc. (BIG) specializes in commercial lines of insurance and offers a unique consultative approach to each of their clients' needs. Kim J. Berrian embraces the systems based approach of W. Edwards Deming, the "Father of Quality Control in Japan", who transformed, among others, Ford, Xerox, and Proctor & Gamble in the U.S.

Following Deming's theory closely, Berrian implements standardized step by step processes & procedures intended to reduce variation within a given system. As Dr. Deming made clear, a reduction in variation is ultimately responsible for reduced costs. Such an approach is invaluable, for example, when considering the potential escalating costs of worker's compensation if left unchecked and absent of systems.

In the late 1990's Berrian consulted for contractors involved with the Big Dig, Boston, MA. There he developed & implemented systems for Project Managers, Superintendents, Field Engineers and Safety Directors on six jobs representing contracts worth over $400 million.

Berrian Insurance Group, Inc. is headquartered in Denver, CO where Joel Berrian (CPCU, ARM, AIC) resides. Joel has 28 years experience in both retail and surplus lines and is licensed in 49 states. He has held several senior management positions throughout his career including Chairman and CEO of Crump Insurance Services, Inc., Sedgwick of Texas, Inc. and President of Sedgwick of Colorado, Inc. Joel has extensive contacts throughout the industry in North American and London markets.

Contact Berrian for information about your commercial insurance needs.
Kim Jonathan Berrian, P.O. Box 647, Waitsfield, VT 05673
Phone: 802-496-9190
Fax: 802-496-9515
E-Mail: kberrian@big-ins.com

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A CONVERSATION WITH SCULPTOR ERIC OBERG

Barre Life: Tell us about some of the challenges you faced sculpting this very realistic skier figure.

Eric Oberg: The skier figure is life size. It is now at the Sugarbush Ski Resort base lodge. The customer was interested in super realism, and asked me to create it in memory of her family member, although she did not want it to be an obvious memorial. One of the challenges in a realistic project like this is to make the nylon parka, the plastic boots, and all the minute details look believable in granite. To achieve these effects, I polished and honed the surfaces to create these textures. The bench and the figure are all one piece, so that presented certain challenges - how to cut between all these elements without breaking the granite. The bark of the split log bench is hand pointed; I polished the lenses of the goggles and semi-polished the snaps to achieve the different tones.

BL: The blood on the face of Jesus appears to be a similar approach. Your work evokes strong emotions.

Eric Oberg: Here the use of the polish technique is to make dark blood coming out of the thorny area of the crown of thorns on the head of Christ. The retailer had requested an upraised face which is much more difficult to represent than a down turned face. They did ask for the blood and this is what I came up with which I feel is fairly authentic. I really try with all Ecce Homo (Latin - here is the man) to make the expression of pain and suffering on the face, which is not always present. I have often seen just a face with stylized thorns. I try to make sure there is expression.

BL: You do hand lettering and hand carving as well as some restoration I understand.

Eric Oberg: I did the restoration work after the vandalism on the Robert Burns pedestal. I did it 21 years ago and so far the repairs still look good. I did the restoration on the Ladrie monument in Hope Cemetery caused by movement of the wings. It pulled some granite right off the upright. I cut those out and fitted new pieces in. My technique to repair it was to cut and make a key way in for a piece that goes in with such a tight fit that there is not much epoxy to show. It is granite next to granite and the repair is pretty well hidden.

I do letter cutting when it is required and I am not too busy. The hand carved roses and round raised lettering on the DuPrey monument in Hope Cemetery are good local examples of my work. You specify how many and the general sweep, maybe you want some buds and how is it going to relate to the letters.

BL: How did you learn your craft?

Eric Oberg: I'll give you a Yogi Berra quote - "You can observe a lot by watching." Frank Gaylord told me on the first day I went to work for him - "I am not a teacher, you are either going to learn by watching or you are not." In contrast, I make a strong effort to teach my apprentices. I let them watch, then try on a scrap of granite and make errors and analyze what happened to lose control. I tell them how I keep control and how not to struggle. About 29 years ago on the first day I started working I was trying so hard to control the chisel and just squeezing it so hard. It was vibrating so hard! It was rattling away in my hands...there is a method to this so that you don't have to struggle...you don't have to have this vibrating end trying to make contact with the stone. It took a while to get all this!

BL: What is the best way to communicate new design concepts?

Eric Oberg: I prefer to make clay models on new designs to communicate more clearly with my clients. I do models and casting of models on some of the major projects. I often make a rough clay sketch of new work to figure out how to plan the cuts and elevations. One of my goals is to have clear communication with my customers. One of the best methods I have found is to create even a rough clay model and drawings on paper. Often I fax or e-mail drawing and photos of the 3-D model. I also do original monument design work. The classic works do not require these, but for new designs it the best route for both the craftsman and the client. I welcome inquiries on new sculptural projects.

View more sculpture including life size military statues and Ecce Homo at his website www.granitesculptor.com. Eric Oberg's full contact information is on p. 29.
The first question many customers ask is how did we come up with the name Stevens Branch Enterprises? Our logo is a picture of a dark tree on a hilltop that our 13 year-old daughter drew which suggests our business name has something to do with trees. Not so. Our home is nestled in the middle of South Barre with the Stevens Branch stream cutting right through our property, and one mile and a half downstream, this same stream cuts through the Metro Center property, more commonly known as the former Rouelle Granite/ISP manufacturing plant, which is where our office and etching studio are located. The name and the stream tie our business and personal life in a unique way.

Stevens Branch was formed in early 2003 when Randy Walker saw the need for a high service laser etching service in Barre that specializes in quick turn-around times on approval drawings and etchings. Typical turnaround for approval drawings is 2-3 days and under a week for the etching itself. These turnarounds are possible due to the pure production machine that we purchased which can etch a surface of 12 foot by 4 foot in one layout. It can also run multiple jobs in one setup, which allows for setting up 4-5 jobs before leaving for the day and having these jobs completed when we return in the morning. Because of this we are capable of etching 8 or more jobs a day. We also hand etch, but our emphasis is on the laser. We have a very large design catalog of typical standard etchings being used on today’s monuments. Custom designs are not a problem with several local artisans on staff. We are not limited to monuments as many recent projects include etching countertops, glass, mirrors, marble, tile and wood products, like kitchen cabinets and hardwood floors.

We also maintain an inventory of black flush markers and both square and oval plaques in standard sizes.

If you are interested in experiencing our superior service or receiving our design catalog and price guide, that I would like to add, can be customized for your business with your name and logo on the cover and many places throughout the catalog please contact us. FREE PICKUP AND DELIVERY IN THE BARRE AREA

Walker was self employed for 11 years before coming into the granite industry in 1996. He set a goal to open or purchase a granite company in a 7-8 year period which he accomplished. In that period Randy was employed with three of the leading players in the local granite industry, all of which have been members of the BGA.

Randy Walker notes “I am proud to be part of the BGA and I will wear this badge of honor well. Stevens Branch is also a family run business which consists of my wife of 24 years Sue, my 14 year old daughter Elisabeth and 15 year old son Matt. Each family member has a role in the operation of this company.”

Randy Walker
Stevens Branch Enterprises
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South Barre, Vt. 05670
Toll Free Tele & Fax 866-476-8037
Local 802-476-8037
rwalker@sbetch.com
Located at the METRO CENTER
In 1949 Americo “Mac” Colombo opened Colombo Granite’s doors to share the long-standing craftsmanship that has encompassed Barre, Vermont for nearly 150 years. His inherent dedication to quality craftsmanship had reputably earned Americo an opportunity to spearhead an efficient and profitable facility. As business grew and the industry boomed, there came a need to update, and expand business or face an unserviceable demand. Instead, his son Robert Colombo, took ownership in 1973 and simply moved the operation to its current location in the 20,000 sq. ft building formerly known as Usle & Perro. Twenty-five years later, a retiring Robert Colombo sold ownership to Robert Plante who merged his Stoneworks Co. and Colombo Granite Inc. to create an entity bigger, faster, and stronger as Colombo Stoneworks Inc. Now serving a larger clientele, Colombo Stoneworks has fostered a highly competitive and efficient operation.

To this day Colombo Stoneworks has emulated Americo’s vision of a small, highly productive, family oriented facility. With state of the art equipment including an 11’-6” diamond saw, old world finishing, an experienced drafting department, expert sandblasting, and a recently updated etching department. Colombo Stoneworks is able to tackle any size job from delicate etchings to pre-assembled mausoleums.

With highly skilled artisans, traditional craftsmanship meets modern laser technology to create exact duplicate work that exemplifies the apex of memorialization. Modern equipment provides efficient, cost-saving manufacturing processes that assures high quality products will be delivered on schedule. Utilizing the Internet enables Colombo Stoneworks to network with retailers and provide valued information to them concerning granite colors, ready to ship inventory products, and related contact information.

Colombo Stoneworks’ buyers program is able to offer a variety of industry products that help retailers complete their ordering processes. Some examples are imported granite memorials and vases, bronze products, and ceramic photo disks. In addition, they offer custom setting and national dealer locating services.

For more information visit www.colombostoneworks.com
North Barre Granite Company, the oldest granite manufacturing facility and a long standing member of the Barre Granite Association, was the first plant to celebrate its centennial in 1995, and is fast approaching 110 years of monumental success.

President Charles Chatot just celebrated his 45th anniversary with North Barre Granite. Walking past high tech diamond saws and innovative custom built stone shaping equipment, Chatot considers factors that have favored their continued success. “Innovation. When something new comes along, we’re always one of the first plants to bring it in and try it out.”

Walking through the modern plant shows an investment in technological advances. The high quality granite memorials and sculptures that North Barre Granite Co. produces, integrates state of the art equipment blended with talented granite craftsmen, and the vision of the design team. Chatot has designed his own machinery, such as the computerized tilt head diamond saw for making angled cuts possible.

North Barre Granite Company was one of the first companies to recycle the water used in the manufacturing process using biodegradable products, such as water-soluble glue to attach stencil rubber. Founder Jules Chatot had two basic rules for the company. First, don’t overcharge for your product. Second, always treat your customers fairly. In the half-century that has followed, Jules’ rules have remained unchanged.

When Jules retired in 1982, his daughter Judee, and his nephew Charles, purchased the company jointly. These partners represent the fifth-generation of Chatots who have made their living in the stone industry. His ancestors worked as masons on the stone bridges in and around Paris. Judee Chatot has been with the company since 1976.

“Our relationship with our customers is as strong today as they were when my Dad first started looking around for business. We still adhere to the rules he established because they are good rules. North Barre Granite Company has produced only the finest granite monuments over the years, and we fully intend to continue that fine tradition.” Charles shares this vision and sees a bright future for North Barre. We have a positive outlook for the next 100 years.

From their historic beginnings, they meld the pride and attention to detail of earlier years with the most advanced technology of today. The team of North Barre Granite professionals serve as design consultants, answering technical questions and assisting in the selection of the material and finish for a client’s requirements.

From monumental sculpture for a major public art projects to extraordinary family memorials, they have the field experience based knowledge to provide timely technical expertise. Custom projects, including fine sculpture and finishing work, continue a very long tradition of craft by true Vermont stone artisans. Your imagination is the only limit of what North Barre Granite Company can create for you!
Manufactured for:

WOODHEAD MEMORIALS

FALMOUTH, KENTUCKY

LIGHT BARRE DIE: OVERALL SIZE 7-0
SANDBLAST SHAPE CARVED, ALL STEELED
SERP TOP WITH STEELED MEMBERS
CIRCULAR ENDS WITH SANDBLASTED FLUTES
LIGHT BARRE BASE: OVERALL SIZE OVER 9-0
STEELED FLAT TOP, STEELED MARGINS, BALANCE ROCK PITCH
Manufactured for:

PLYMOUTH MEMORIAL STUDIO

MAURICE PLAINS, NEW JERSEY

DARK BARRE GRANITE 3-10 x 2-6 OVERALL

SANDBLAST BY BGA MEMBER FIRM MEMORIAL SANDBLAST CO.
Culture Craft Sandblast Co.

DARK BARRE GRANITE DIE: OVERALL SIZE 5', ALL STEELED, OVAL TOP

Culture Craft Sandblast Company sandblasted this monument based on the design concepts of Eugene and Julie Martineau. Eugene is Adelard Benoit's uncle. They loved the deluxe Calla lilies and requested a flower for each member of the family.

Martineau worked at the Rock of Ages quarry from the age of 18, beginning as a flagman and retiring as superintendent of the quarries. Eugene chose the all steeled Barre granite monument because his experience with granite has shown him that Barre Granite always maintains it's beauty over the years.
Manufactured for:

Renald and Denise Fortier
BARRE, VERMONT
MEDIUM BARRE GRANITE
OVERALL SIZE: 4-10

This memorial is set in Hope Cemetery near the entrance, prominently in view from Route 14. Designed by a longtime Barre resident and granite worker, Renald Fortier. The all steeled Barre monument, sub-base and base portrays the maple leaf design representing Fortier's Canadian heritage.
Designed and erected for:
Robert Flood of
Artists Memorial Monuments

BY JOSEPH B., JOSEPH V. AND MATTHEW J. CALCAGNI FOR:
MORAVIAN CEMETERY, STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK
OVERALL DIMENSIONS: 27-8 x 14-2 x 17-3
SELECT BARRE GRANITE, STEELED FINISH EXTERIOR
POLISHED DARK BARRE & BETHEL WHITE GRANITE INTERIOR

This design features two angled banks of eight crypts each, flanking a large vestibule with two benches and a large altar. The rear interior wall has a large floor to ceiling stained glass window, depicting the Holy Family flanked by two side lights with praying angels. The cemetery lot consists of a steep bank into which there has been a substantial concrete retaining wall that has been covered with Barre Granite panels and capstones matching the building.
Manufactured for:

Quincy Memorials

QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

BARRE GRANITE DIE: OVERALL SIZE OVER 4-0
BARRE GRANITE BASE: OVERALL SIZE 4-6
Manufactured for:
Dundee Memorials
DUNDEE, NEW YORK
JET BLACK GRANITE
5-6 OVERALL, ETCHED AND GOLD LEAF
HAND ETCHING BY MEMBER FIRM SOFIA’S STUDIOS, INC.
Barre Granite Bench

This bench provides a place for reflection in the nature walk section of Green Mount Cemetery in Montpelier, Vermont at the very top of the hill.
Manufactured for:

Sunbury Monumental Works

SUNBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

BARRE GRANITE DIE: 12-6 OVERALL, POLISHED 2, BALANCE STEELED

4" DROP ON TOP, TAPERED ENDS

BARRE GRANITE BASE: 14-0 OVERALL, POLISHED TOP, BRP
The Barre granite work at the I-91 welcome center in Guilford, Vermont creates a popular tourist photo opportunity spot, as this group from North Carolina demonstrates.
Men Against Granite

IN THE 1930s THE WPA’s Federal Writers’ Project hired authors across America to interview people from all walks of life. In Vermont, writers Mari Tomasi and Roaldus Richmond recorded the life stories of over one hundred Barre area residents, nearly all of whom had some connection to the granite industry. In the early decades of the twentieth century, quarrying and carving Barre granite was the lifeblood of the local economy, providing many with an income, but often at a fearsome cost: the health and even the lives of many workers.

Men Against Granite presents fifty-two captivating stories, and in each the voices of a long-gone era come alive. We meet an operatic cast of characters ranging from the mayor to an itinerant peddler, from a lumber baron to a boarding house matron, as well as many stone workers, or their widows. We hear of family births and deaths, of the rise and fall of the granite industry, of carving granite and escaping the granite sheds, of the immigrant’s life in Vermont and of families left behind in the Old Country.

This collection of interviews has awaited publication for more than sixty years. Now, with the release of Men Against Granite, a fabulous time capsule is opened for a new generation, who will marvel at their ancestors and develop a deeper sense of what it means to be both a Vermonter and an American.

“Alfred Rosa and Mark Wanner have done a masterful job editing the WPA interviews that Mari Tomasi and Roaldus Richmond gathered in Barre, Vermont. The memories, observations, and narratives in this fascinating volume resonate with the spirit and energy of a bygone age in the granite industry that has long symbolized the rugged nature of life in the Green Mountain State.”

—Kevin Graffagnino, Director, Vermont Historical Society
The New England Press, Shelburne, Vermont

Moonlight and Music

Gayleen Aiken has been making art since she was a young girl, although she was not “discovered” until the 1970s. Her art has been shown in the United States and Europe, including a solo exhibition at the gallery of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York. One of the few living artists represented in the collection of the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Center in Williamsburg, Virginia. She was also the subject of an award-winning documentary by feature filmmaker Jay Craven.

Rachel Klein is an author of short stories, novels, including The Princess of the Sands, and nonfiction. With Lyle Rexer, she wrote American Museum of Natural History: 125 Years of Expedition and Discovery, published by Abrams in 1995.

Men Against Granite is available from the Vermont Granite Museum of Barre at Depot Square. P.O. Box 282, Barre, VT 05641. 802-476-4605. $22.95 plus $4.00 for S&H.

Moonlight and Music is available by special order from many bookstores.
Feeling boxed in by your sandblast media?

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At Miles Supply, we believe we can save our customers money on every order they place with us. For 50 years we’ve consistently priced our stone industry supplies below our competition. Give us a call today. Find out what many stone industry professionals have known for years—not only does Miles Supply provide the best customer service in the industry—we can save you money too!
Richard T. McBride, former President and Director of the Barre Granite Association made many important contributions to Barre’s granite community in his career. He began as promotional manager for the BGA and served as the general manager of the organization from 1954-1958. His wife Dorothy reports that McBride authored the text that adorns the front of the BGA building. Richard was a director of Monument Builders of North America and was elected president of the Manufacturers Division of MBNA. He was a director of the American Monument Association, The Associated Industries of Vermont and the Barre Chamber of Commerce. He was Vice President and General manager of Jones Brothers Co. and became Sales Director of Beck and Beck when that company acquired the Jones Brothers manufacturing activities. He served as both a member and a chairman of Barre’s Economic Development Committee and as charter member of the Vermont Granite Museum of Barre.

McBride graduated from Miami University (Ohio) and attended the Harvard Graduate School of Business. He served in the U.S. Navy LT.(JG.) from 1942 to 1946. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He will be greatly missed by all those lives he touched.

Richard T. McBride, Center

Harold Morris started work at Consolidated Memorials, Inc. on June 2, 1970. He recently retired on June 4, 2004 after 34 years of service. He began as a sawyer helper and lumper for the sawyer. He finished his career as lumper for the polisher.
Manufacturing

Adams Granite Co.
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Fax: 802-476-3027
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Armand has worked in the granite industry as a draftsman for over 50 years along with his sons David, Doug, and Dana. His son Dana designed this monument.