

Barre History Collection

**Jones Brothers Company
Collection, 1910-1979
BHC 217T, 218T, 458F**

Volume: 1 linear foot
Inclusive dates: 1910-1979
Records Types: Photographs, advertising, designs, business documents

Introduction

This collection contains material from the Jones Brothers Company granite business. The collection is primarily photographs, with some other documents related to the Jones Brothers Company's business. The collection is part of the Barre History Collection. It is housed in 2 archival flip-top boxes and consumes 1 linear foot of shelf space.

Biographical Note

The Jones brothers were the four sons of Hugh Jones, who was born on December 28, 1828, in Wales. At age 2 he immigrated to America with his parents and settled in Ebensburg, Pennsylvania. When the Civil War broke out, Hugh Jones enlisted in the Union army and was killed in 1865 at the Battle of Fort Stedman, Virginia. He left behind a widow, Eliza Evans, and six young children: Marshall Watkin Jones (1853–1922), Annie Elizabeth Jones (1855–1927), Seward Jones (1857–1948), Dayton E. Jones (1859–1902), Margaret Elizabeth Jones (1861–1921), and Hugh John Morris Jones (1865–1931). All four of the sons eventually became a part of the Jones Brothers Company.

The two older Jones Brothers, Marshall, and Seward, opened their own wholesale monumental business in 1882 in Boston, Massachusetts, where they established their "Guardian Memorials." After discovering Barre granite, which in their words has a "color and texture far surpassing the gray Scotch in beauty and quality", they decided to expand their business into Barre, Vermont. They purchased a dark gray granite quarry on Millstone Hill, Barre, and leased a granite manufacturing shed from Mackie & Simpson, on 46 Granite Street.

By 1890, Dayton E. and Hugh J. M. Jones had joined the business. In his *History of the Granite Industry in New England* (1913), Arthur Brayley notes that "...in 1895 they built their present plant, perhaps the largest of its kind in the world. Here is installed the only surface cutter in that vicinity, two McDonald stone cutting machines, two gang saws, immense cutting and polishing lathes, three inside traveling derricks, each 40 tons capacity, pneumatic surface cutters, pneumatic tool, etc., all of which are operated by steam and water aggregating 300 horse-power."

In 1898, the Jones Brothers Company acquired the C.E. Tayton Granite Quarry, a quarry that produced light granite. The Wells-Lamson Quarry was acquired in 1907. At its peak, the Jones Brothers Company employed as many as 500 workers in Barre. The Jones Brothers Company was referred to as the largest granite manufacturing plant in the world.

In 1942, Jones Brothers executive Maurice Kelley expanded into selling poultry grit under the STONEMO trade name, using the granite from Wells-Lamson quarry. Georgia governor Eugene Talmadge, Congressman James Curran Davis of Georgia, and DeKalb County Commissioner Scott Candler attended an inaugural event in Georgia, sitting onstage beside Maurice Kelley in front of an audience of 1,800.

A history of the Jones Brothers Company by Mandy Burwell, graduate student in the Historic Preservation Program, University of Vermont, tells us that "...from its creation in 1882 until 1948, the Jones Brothers Company was a family run business. In 1948, Heber G. England, who had been involved on the company since 1927, took over as president though the family continued to retain shares. The company was bought out by Maurice Kelley in 1963, who eventually sold the Guardian Trademark to the company of Beck and Beck and shut down the Jones Brothers Company in 1975."

Notable granite work by Jones Brothers Company:

- The Green Beret Memorial, dedicated and partly funded by John Wayne, in Fort Bragg, North Carolina
- The Beacon Monument for the Massachusetts State House, in Boston, Massachusetts
- Sixteen massive pillars in the nave of St. John the Divine Cathedral, in New York City (Eight of which were six feet in diameter, 38 feet high, weighing 100 tons each)
- The Brigham Young Memorial in Salt Lake City, Utah
- The Shevchenko Memorial in Washington, DC
- The Coal Miners Memorial in West Virginia
- Mausoleums for the Woolrich, Firestone, Heinz, Hood, Hershey, Ringling and Webb families.

Scope and Content

The Jones Brothers Company and the Barre, Vermont, granite industry are the primary subjects of the collection. The collection is made up of approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ photographs, along with advertising, designs, and other documents related to the Jones Brothers Company's business. The photographs extensively document the Jones Brothers plant, the Jones Brothers quarry, the Wells-Lamson Quarry, and employees of the Jones Brothers Company. Some related topics covered in the collection include Barre's Hope Cemetery, granite monuments, granite quarrying, granite sculpting, John Wayne, and STONEMO poultry grit. Dated items range from 1910 to 1979.

Related Collections

- J. Alfred Healy papers, 1899-1977, BHC 206-211
- Plans for a house owned by Heber G. England in Montpelier, Vermont, are in the Huse Family papers, 1772-1970, Doc 566.
- *Four Brothers: Their Contribution to the Memorial Industry of the United States* (1942), *974.31 B274jb

InventoryPhotographs

- 217T:01 Monuments, 1950, 1961, n.d.
 02 Mausoleums, n.d.
 03 Dedication of Green Beret Monument, with John Wayne, 1968
 04 Portraits, n.d.
 Includes:
 Seward W. Jones
 Albert W. Poor
 Joseph Worthey
 05 Group portraits, 1935, 1940, 1942, 1944, 1964, 1965, 1967, n.d.
 Includes:
 Bruce Arnold Emanuel Neubrunn
 Bob Blanchard Phil Palmer
 John Bottger Ken Pease
 Clarence Campbell Aldo Peduzzi
 Roy Elwell Bob Peduzzi
 Heber England Gus Pepin
 Ernie Ernst Dave Pinkham
 Paul Gracherio Joseph Puricelli
 Cornelius "Kio" Granai Pete Quinlan
 Fred Healy Bob Remy
 Jim Ingram Bill Roy
 John Jackson Henry Schaub
 Marshall Jackson Steve Schaub
 Bob Johnson Walter Semlow
 Brandon Jones Bill Spargo
 Hugh Jones Dick Stone
 Morris Jones Harry Vasser
 Jim Kelley Lawrence Walker
 Maurice Kelley Frank Wall
 Gordon Kidder Bob Winney
 Morris Leventhal Bob Young
 Dick McBride

 06 Captioned photographs, 1958, n.d.
 07 Jones Brothers Plant, interior and machinery, n.d.
 08 _____, exterior, n.d.
 09 Jones Brothers Quarry, n.d.
 10 Large pieces of granite, n.d.
 11 Wells-Lamson Quarry, George H. Davis Studio, Boston, 1930
 12 _____, Arthur Simmons, photographer, 1963, n.d.
 13 _____, Lizzari Photographs Inc., 1963, 1967
 14 _____, Maurice Kelly, photographer (negatives), 1968, 1969

- 15 _____, The Derrick Studio, Orleans, Vermont, n.d.
 16 _____, 'furnished by Allis-Chalmer Co.', n.d.
 17 _____, Tom Fitzpatrick, photographer, n.d.
 18 _____, oversize photographs, 1924, n.d.
 19 _____, photographer unknown, photographs and negatives, 1942, 1961, 1964, n.d.
- 218T: 01 Wells-Lamson Quarry, oblique aerial views, black and white, 1937, n.d.
 02 _____, _____, color, 1969, n.d.
 03 _____, _____, black and white, 1979
 04 Rotary club trip to Wells-Lamson Quarry, n.d.
 05 Conference in Georgia, opening the new STONEMO plant, 1942
Includes:
 Georgia Governor Eugene Talmadge
 Georgia Congressman James Curran Davis
 DeKalb County Commissioner from 1939 to 1955 Scott Candler
 Maurice Kelley
- 06 Cleveland Convention exhibit, photographs and negatives, 1953
 07 Hope Cemetery, n.d.
 08 Demonstrating use of a cutting torch, n.d.
 09 Transporting Douglas Fir for derricks, Lizzari Photographs Inc., n.d.
 10 Asphalt and stone crushing plant, construction, Berlin, VT, Lizzari Photographs Inc., n.d.
 11 _____, n.d.
 12 Paving access road, Lizzari Photographs Inc., n.d.
 13 Paving parking lot of U.S. Army Reserve Building, Montpelier, VT, Lizzari Photographs Inc., n.d.
 14 Miscellaneous photographs, 1910, 1935, n.d.
Includes:
 Sommer's Employee Corp. Monuments
 Edw. A. Carroll Co.
 Moving granite with yoked cattle

Documents

- 218T:15 Design for job #72-2178, 1972
 16 _____, #74-3770, 1974
 17 Design order and plans, mausoleum, job #74-4698, 1974
 18 Correspondence and plans, job #74-4076, 1975
 19 Miscellaneous designs, n.d.
 20 Miscellaneous material, including advertising and pricing, 1934, 1975, 1976
 21 Advertising mock-ups, n.d.
 22 "The Conching Room," essay on use of granite rollers by Hershey's Chocolate, no author, n.d.
 23 Wells-Lamson Quarry Co. ten year quarry forecast, 1974
 24 Jones Brothers Plant and quarry, 35mm transparencies, 1968

Oversized

- 458F:01 Guardian Mausoleum, blank contract (booklet), n.d.
02 _____, sample photo book, n.d.
03 Matted photographs for exhibit, with inventory and approximate dates
Includes:
A. Jones Brothers Manufacturing Plant, c. 1915
B. Interior of Jones Brothers, c. 1900
C. Men with a large granite block, possibly for a mausoleum, n.d.
D. Large piece of machinery, a vertical edging machine, c. 1950
E. J. A. Healy leaning against a block of granite, c. 1940
F. Interior of Jones Brothers, c. 1950
G. Aerial view of Jones Brothers, c. 1955
H. Large block of granite on railcar outside Jones Brothers, c. 1950

Nicholas Ligett
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