

**Louis B. Goodall Memorial Library, Sanford, ME.**  
**and**  
**The New England Stoneworkers Preservation Society**

**Presents an Exhibit:**  
*Quarrying through York County*

**June 2<sup>nd</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008**



Portrait of an 1850's Stonecutter  
Photo courtesy of The Library of  
Congress with a link to their web  
site: <http://www.loc.gov>

The traveling exhibit will be highlighting the history and location of the stone workers and the granite quarries of York County. It will include six maps, four posters, numerous photos of the quarries and stoneworkers, and, names of the stoneworkers and owners of the granite companies of York County. It was recently on display at the McArthur Library in Biddeford.

There were about 20 quarries scattered throughout York County, starting with Milk Island off Cape Porpoise, it was quarried about 1830, maybe earlier, the oldest quarry in York County and maybe the earliest producing granite quarry in Maine. I am continuing my search for the date of its beginning. The 1830's began the quarrying of Biddeford, Kennebunkport, Kennebunk and Wells. With Alfred, Arundel, Eliot, Hollis, North Berwick, and York quarries started from the 1850's ending in the 1970's. However there are presently two working quarries, which are in the cities of Wells and York. Biddeford had the most quarries and workers, seven quarries.

I am also looking for stories, photos, artifacts and locations of the stoneworkers and their work places, the quarries and cutting sheds. The artifacts and photos are often tucked away in the attics and cellars of their relatives who worked in the quarries and on the ships that transported the granite to near and far away places. The articles will be given back to you or can be donated to the local historical society. I will be sharing their memories on-line and in future publications, with most of the proceeds donated to the local historical societies.

- **August 1-31:** Display at the Springvale Library
- **July :** Talk at Biddeford Historical Society, Meeting House Rd, (date forthcoming)
- **September:** Display Alfred Library and Historical Society
- **Sept. 9-14:** Barre, VT Granite Festival & The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Stonework Symposium
- **Sept. 19-21:** Unity, ME Common Ground Fair: Maine Stoneworkers Guild
- **October 16-18th** Stone Expo 2008 – Las Vegas, NV –Display

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**Be sure to visit our website at [www.stonecuttersonline.org](http://www.stonecuttersonline.org)\***

The New England Stoneworkers Preservation Society will be showcasing an exhibit to local libraries and historical societies throughout York County, Maine this summer called:

## **"Quarrying through York County"**

The next upcoming photo exhibit will be on display from June 2 to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008, at:

### **Louis B. Goodall Memorial Library, in the Community Room, Sanford ME**

The traveling exhibit will be highlighting the history and locations of the stone workers and the granite quarries of York County. It includes 6 maps, 16 posters and many framed photos of the art from the stone, histories and stories of the quarries, stoneworkers and owners.

Over the past six years I have collected photos of the stone workers and owners, their quarries, (both limestone and granite), tools, equipment, cutting sheds and building sites, such as the many grand stone buildings of the 1800's, lighthouses, forts, breakwaters, of New England. Also, photos of the varying modes of transportation that helped in moving the granite from quarry to the cutting shed to the railroad or ship yard then to the building site will be on display. Photos of the ancient stone workers of Egypt, Greece, Rome and Europe will be highlighted as well as the photos of the present day stoneworkers, carvers and owners.

There are two posters which tell of the granite cutters labor union, "Granite Cutters International Union." This union had its embryonic beginnings in Rockland, Maine on March 10, 1877 and the union rapidly spread across Maine and the rest of New England by 1880. The labor union worked its way across the rest of the U.S. and into Canada by the late 1880's ending with over 100 branches and thousands of members until its incorporation into a larger labor union in 1977.

The research is ongoing and always enlightening and interesting, as every day I am learning more and more about the numerous granite quarries and hundreds of stone workers that used to work from Biddeford to York and nine other towns in between. Please see the website for a map showing a general location of the quarries. <http://www.stonecuttersonline.org>

An updated and precise map of the exact placement of the 20 old quarries of York County and the two present working granite quarries of Wells and Cape Neddick will be available online by summers end.

I am hoping to learn of more stories and locate photos from the York County community at large, in order to add to the stories and photos on the website and eventually to put into a book. If your father or grandfather, uncle or other ancestor were involved with working with the granite stone or in the quarries, and you would like to share their stories, please contact me, I would love to talk to you!

I will have a list of names of the workers and owners on the website soon. It will be an ongoing and updated list as people give me their names or I find them in directories and labor union journals. I will add them to the stoneworkers list, which will be a new tap on the website. The website has been designed by my brother, Mark McKenzie, web developer, graphic designer, teacher and artist. <http://www.sacorivergraphics.com>

The quest and passion for the story of the granite stone and its workers has been an ongoing project for me for over five years now. As, I began my own search for information of what a stonecutter and quarry worker did for work, I began to appreciate their ancient craft, that was passed down from generation to generation from before the building of the Pyramids of Egypt.

I began to get a sense that others were interested in knowing more of their amazing stories as well and I wanted to share the knowledge I learned with others and so, I began my website to share with all who are interested and whom want to share their stories .

What did a stonecutter, a tool sharpener, teamster, quarry worker all do with the stone? Where and how did the granite get from the quarry to being part of an immense building in NYC or D.C.? My grandfathers and uncles came from Scotland, Ireland and Sweden to move, cut and shape the granite.

As a fifth generational stoneworker, I am hoping to continue the ancestral love of stone and bring the art and stories to a virtual world of knowledge to the Internet and share in person with others who are interested in learning about the dedication and hard work done by the many stoneworkers who build and beautified this nation with the thousands of grand stone buildings and stone monuments which grace our beautiful parks, cemeteries and roadsides with their buildings, breakwaters, forts, roads, bridges, sculptors and monuments, to name a few stone artifacts.

I am available upon request to give a power point presentation and talk regarding my research and findings to local historical groups and schools.

Please call me at 207-590-1547 or email me at: [dreamtraveler2001@yahoo.com](mailto:dreamtraveler2001@yahoo.com)

Thank you and hope to see you at one of the exhibits or talks this summer.

-- Dorothea McKenzie