

SELECTED LIMESTONE ARTICLES



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The use of the word “selected” in the title would indicate to most people that I searched through my trove of articles about the Indiana Limestone Industry and chose these four for inclusion in this little compilation. Alas, it is not so. There are only four to choose from. The truth will out. I do omit the two larger works I did twenty-six years ago. These were the *Origins of the Indiana Limestone Company* and the *Gazetteer of Limestone Mills of Owen, Monroe, and Lawrence Counties to 1950*. The latter work may be found on the internet. I am currently working on revising the two but that is another story. Thus, with these four little journeys to limestone country, my entire work on the industry will have been made available to the usual suspects. That is to say the few friends, museums, and libraries to whom I give copies.

A couple of year ago I wrote the Matthews piece because I was intrigued with John Matthews and his sons and wanted to understand more about their role in the business. That role, I found, was significant and provided the first two generations of leadership for the longest continuously operating limestone business in the district. It eventually changed hands but still continues on as one of our major stone companies. Thus, with but one year off between the two ownerships, the company has continued from 1862 until the present.

The next article on the Hoadleys is a recent piece prompted by my exacerbation with the Hoadley family. In my research on the industry I was always running into a Hoadley. Just how many of those guys were there and how many different stone companies did they begin? It was confusing and needed to be straightened out-at least in my own mind. The result showed an interesting contrast between two important stone families-the several Matthews who all kept to one company and the several Hoadleys who started several companies. They were two of the most important families in the history of the Indiana Limestone business.

After writing my work on the origins of the Indiana Limestone Company, I did the same thing for the Ingalls Stone Company. They were one of the largest, if not the largest independent companies in the district. I wrote that shortly after the other work but it languished and did not see much distribution. I am not sure why I didn't pass it around. I have upgraded the pictures and included it herein.

After dealing with the Indiana Limestone Company and the Ingalls Limestone Company, it seemed that the Bloomington Limestone Company should be next. I started the work twenty years ago and then just stopped. Plowing through county clerk records in Bloomington wasn't as convenient as doing it here in Bedford and so I quit. Recently, I returned to the subject and the following article is the result. It lacks quite the detail of research into public records that the original Indiana Limestone Company had, but the nature of the Bloomington Limestone Company is such that I don't think it matters. At least I found out about as much as I needed to know about it.

These four articles are all written as stand-alone pieces that are simply cobbled together into this one work. Enjoy.

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