

# BUILT FROM STONE

## THE WESTERLY GRANITE STORY

VOLUME  
43 of 52

### ORDER BOOK HAS A STORY TO TELL

A page from an order book of the Smith Granite Company reveals much about the production of the monument that Lizzie Borden ordered for her parents on July 2, 1894.

**Top center:** name of the customer

**Upper left corner:** the order number and the contract price

**Upper right corner:** sales agent.

**Beneath the red line:** type of granite, order date, and cemetery

**Left side of page:** a sketch of the monument, indicating the number of separate stones required. The stones are numbered from the bottom up and the dimensions of each stone, the inscription, and the type of lettering are indicated.

To the right of the sketch, there are columns indicating the number of the stone, the date that work was completed, the name of the man who cut that stone, the cost of the stock and the cost of the labor. It is hard to believe that it cost only \$13.23 for Tom Holliday to cut to dimension the cap at the top of the monument.

Beneath the list of numbered stones is a list of specialties required and the number of the stone on which the work was done, the date completed, the name of the specialist, and the cost of labor. As you would expect, the most expensive specialist was the carver L. Galli, who carved the #4 stone (the most elaborate stone next to the top) at a cost of \$230.79.

The bottom of the page documents similar information about the four headstones. The shipping date, January 1895, is in the bottom center.



The finished monument stands in Oak Grove Cemetery, Fall River, MA, but the order books tell the complete story.



The completed Borden monument and head stone.

Order Number: 195  
Contract Price: 2124  
Customer's Name: E.L. and L.A. Borden  
Sales Agent's Name: Hand  
185

Order No. 195  
Contract Price 2124  
Type of Granite: Italian Granite  
Date Ordered: July 20/94  
Cemetery: Oak Grove  
Date Completed: July 20/94  
Stonecutter: [blank]

Stone	Date Completed	Stonecutter	Cost of Stock	Cost of Labor
1	Oct 26	Tom Holliday	30.0	57.44
2	Oct 9	Joe Brown	30.2	73.88
3	Oct 11	Mike Burke	22.4	58.58
4	Oct 12	Joe Power	12	13.17
5	10	Tom Holliday	21.9	13.23

Sketch of monument with dimensions - stones numbered from the bottom up

Special Assignments:

Stone	Date Completed	Specialist	Cost of Stock	Cost of Labor
5	27/10/94	Geo. Rao		14.67
4		James Hee		32.44
		Lanning		87.60
		Paul		38.75
		reel		9.36
3	14/Jan/95	L. Galli		230.79
		Paul		7.70

Stone 1: Lettering Raised and Polished

Stone 2: Panels cut a second time due to error

Stone 3: HDS indicates headstone

Stone 4: Headstone Cutters

Headstone	Date Completed	Specialist	Cost of Stock	Cost of Labor
1	Sept 14/95	Geo. Rao	2.6	3.21
2	26	Wm. Francis	2.6	3.21
3	28	Frank Roads	2.6	3.21
4	1	John Moore	2.6	3.21

Headstone Specialists:

Headstone	Date Completed	Specialist	Cost of Stock	Cost of Labor
1	1/10/95	J.F. Murphy	10.78	15.24
2	1/10/95	Wm. Deane		

Sketch of Headstone

Date Shipped: Shipped Jan 4/95

### TODAY IN GRANITE



### HISTORY



The tin pail came in sections. If anyone has a pail like this, we would love to photograph it.

#### Tin Pail Brigade

"One of my first chores, as I can remember, was to take my father's lunch to him on Saturdays, in his lunch pail, which had tea in the bottom. And on the top of it was always an English pasty. I would go up, and my father [William John Veal] would be cutting granite and he'd sit. He had a stove in his shed and he always had a fire in there, so he'd put his pail on the stove, and then we'd sit down and I always had the corner of his pasty ... [which was] filled with meat and potato, folded in pastry." Mrs. John (Selena) Burne, who was born in 1900, recounted this story in 1985.

**The Narragansett Weekly** on May 29, 1873 indicated that the quarrymen often carried their own lunch pails. "One of the most interesting of the daily sights of Westerly is the procession of quarrymen coming from the hill about six o'clock every evening [carrying their tin lunch pails]." The newspaper coined the term "Tin Pail Brigade" to honor these men.

### STONE CHIPS

"I was a young kid; ... I used to eat like a horse. And I used to sneak, because if you got caught eating a sandwich, they'd give you holy hell because you're wasting time. So I remember when I first went to work, I'd grind with one hand and eat with the other one! And I was situated so that I could see the boss. I put up a mirror and if he were coming, I hid the sandwich ... You wouldn't dare get caught eating a sandwich. There was only one time you ate and that was when the whistle blew."

Arthur Ferraro in an interview in 1984

### YOUR PART IN HISTORY

Share your stories, photos and artifacts. Earlier volumes of "Built From Stone" are now on the museum's website; [www.babcocksmithhouse.org](http://www.babcocksmithhouse.org).

Please call us at 401-377-8490 or 401-322-0452 or e-mail us at [builtfromstone@gmail.com](mailto:builtfromstone@gmail.com).

### COMING NEXT WEEK

Joseph Recchia: The Story of a Rose

### PEOPLE WHO BUILT WESTERLY DOCUMENTED GRANITE WORKERS

Sawyer, Edwin	Scott, Robert J.
Sawyer, Jack	Scott, W. J.
Sawyer, John "Doc"	Servidio, James
Sawyer, John J.	Selvidio, Mario
Sawyer, Robert G.	Selvidio, Maxio
Sawyers, Jack	Serra, Charles
Sawyers, Robert	Shae, Michael
Scaglione,	Shae, Timothy
Scharphler, J. B.	Shanks, Alexander
Scorgie, Alexander E.	Shannon, W.
Scott, Peter	Shawn, Roger
Scott, Robert	Shea, Dan



Babcock-Smith  
House Museum

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