

James G. Batterson: Granite, Marble and More

Presented by
Ashley Batterson Powell Hanson

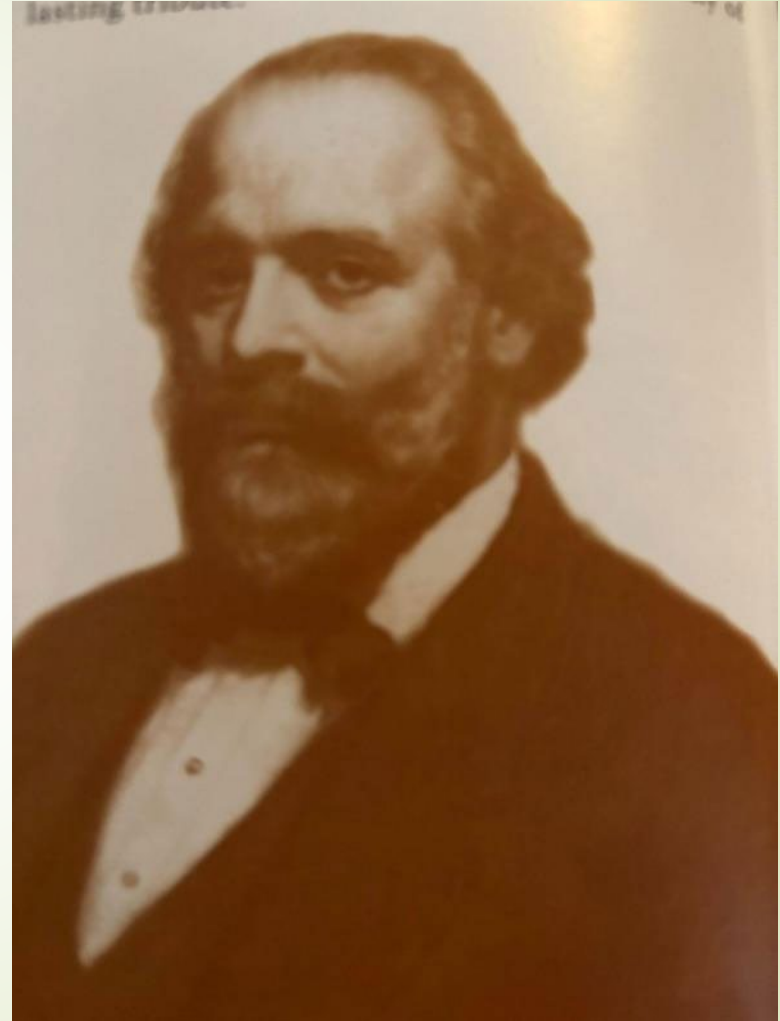


Many folks need to be thanked before I
begin this talk:
Brenda and John Linton, Ellen Madison, Linda,
Ed and Carol Fazio, Susan Brocato, Meg
Barclay, Kathy Gehring and Hugh Barton and
truly all the other folks involved in this amazing
little museum, The Babcock-Smith House
Museum



James Goodwin Batterson

- ↓ Born in Windsor, CT in 1823
- ↓ Death date: September 18, 1901
- ↓ Grew up in New Preston (Marble Dale), CT
- ↓ Father, Simeon (1797-1870), a marble stonecutter and had a monument shop
- ↓ Mother - Melissa
- ↓ James G. second of twelve children
- ↓ Married Eunice Elizabeth Goodwin
- ↓ Eunice Elizabeth and James G. had three children



Batterson's children

Clara Jeannette Batterson

1855-1868

Mary Elizabeth Batterson Beach

1856-1951 (died at age 94)

James G. Batterson, Jr.

1858-1923

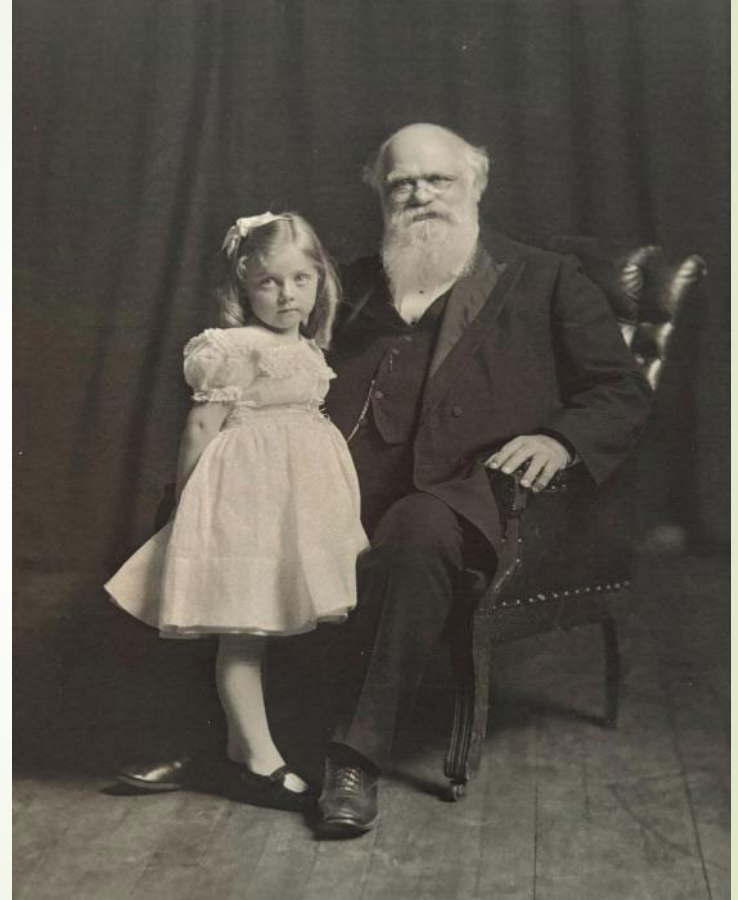


Elizabeth Beach Powell Capen

Granddaughter of James G. Batterson

Born 1896

Died 1997

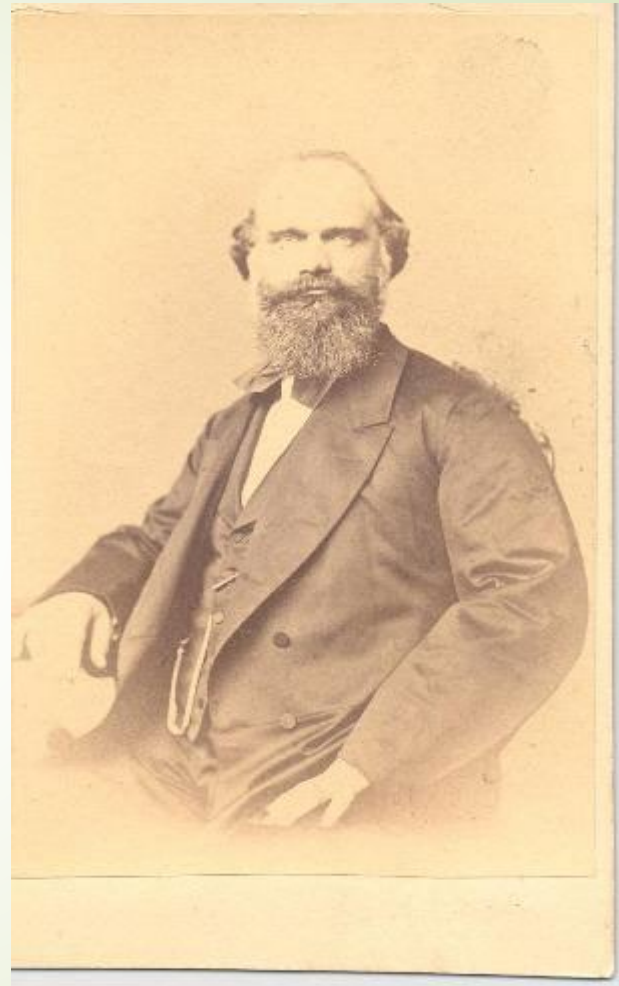


Who was James G. Batterson

"Batterson was not merely a businessman. He was an inventor, artist, historian, and scientist, as well as a lover of languages. A true Renaissance man." (Anthony Roy, "Neither Forlorn Nor Forgotten")

"He studied art in Europe, wrote poetry, was proficient in Greek and Latin, and spent several years studying and exploring Egypt." (*New York Times*, 9/19/1901)

"Rugged and stable as the granites which first gave him fame, finished and polished as the marbles which added lustre to strength, complex and diverse as the industries which he promoted." (Elaine Kidd "O'leary, Hartford County Biographies")



Aspirations and Dreams

- Received an “ordinary” or “common school” education in Marble Dale, CT
- Wanted to go to college, was “fitted” for college
- Family had no money for college
- Apprenticeship in printing and publishing in Ithaca, NY
- Dad calls him home to work in the Marble Monument shop
- Studies law, language and geology
- He wants to do more with his life...

A Busy Man...

Stone cutter in his father's marble yard from a very young age

Stone merchant, stone importer, stone contractor- started his own business at age 23 in Hartford- 1846, in marble, brownstone, and later in granite

Owner of stone quarries in Concord, NH and Westerly, RI (New England Granite Works)

Inventor of a special polishing lathe that both cuts and polishes stone columns

One of the founders of the Connecticut Republican party- firm supporter of Abraham Lincoln, circa. 1855

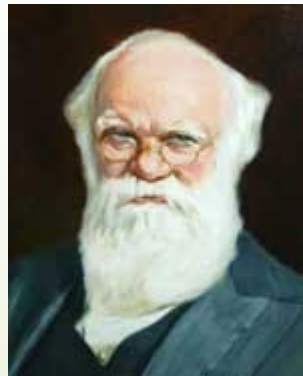
Founder of Travelers Insurance - 1863/1864

Travelers Insurance Company

- ↓ Founder of Travelers Insurance Company in 1863
- ↓ Wrote the first accident insurance policy in the United States in 1864
- ↓ Inducted into The Insurance Hall of Fame in 1965

“A superb businessman, Batterson saw the importance of soundness in insurance operations and the importance of a single company providing all forms of insurance.”

(The Insurance Hall of Fame)



Business names for Batterson's Stone Companies

- ↓ 1846 James G Batterson, Marble Manufactures (Hartford, CT)
- ↓ 1852 Batterson, Canfield & Co (Hartford, CT)
 - ↪ Canfield was a bookkeeper, salesman and designer
- ↓ New England Monument - with Canfield (New York, NY)
- ↓ 1856 Batterson's Monumental Works (Hartford)
- ↓ Batterson & Eisele Marble, Onyx, and Granite (New York, NY)
- ↓ 1867 Rhode Island Granite Works (Westerly, RI) - Ledward
- ↓ 1871 New England Granite Works (Concord, NH 1889-1923 & Westerly)-also called New England Granite Company
- ↓ Regardless of the many names changes, the central business office was on Main Street in Hartford for five decades

Rattlesnake Hill, Concord, NH



New England Granite Quarry. Concord, N. H.



Figure 7. New England Granite Company Quarry No. 1, published in Merrimack County Art Work, 1893. At left of center, two rows of quarriers coordinate their drilling, apparently oblivious to a large block of granite about to be lifted past them. This quarry was engaged at the time in supplying granite for the Library of Congress, the largest building project anywhere to that date. In 1896 the company employed 85 quarrymen, 154 granite cutters, 40 laborers, 2 machine men, and 12 tool sharpeners. Courtesy of the Concord Public Library. F4197.

New England Granite Works - incorporated in 1871

- Most used and known name of Batterson's stone operations
- Business Office in Hartford for over 50 years. Dissolved in June 1926.



The Civil War changed everything...

Postwar demand meant explosive growth for Batterson's firm, which produced many of the most admired Civil War monuments in the country, including the national monuments at the Gettysburg and Antietam battlefield cemeteries. The firm, renamed the New England Granite Co., expanded into general construction with contracts to build Providence City Hall, Marble House in Newport, the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Co. building in Hartford, George Vanderbilt's Biltmore estate in North Carolina, the Library of Congress in Washington, the new (1874-79) Connecticut State Capitol and the foundation under the Statue of Liberty.

(William Hosley, http://hartfordinfo.org/issues/documents/history/htfd_courant_052312.asp)

The Batterson Monument Shop



Batterson's Monuments of focus for this talk:

- The Forlorn Soldier, also known as Old Soldier and Hayfoot, 1866-1868
- Antietam Man - granite soldier standing at parade rest atop a pedestal, commissioned 1867, dedicated September, 1880
- Connecticut State Capitol, completed 1878
- Soldiers Monument, Mystic, CT, 1883
- Mallory Gates, Elm Grove Cemetery, Mystic, CT, 1892

Brownstone to Granite

↓ Batterson's early civil war monuments were brownstone

Quarried in Portland, CT (Obelisks then figures)

-A soft rock, does not stand up to the elements

↓ Transported on Connecticut River to Hartford
↓ 1865 Soldiers Monument in Bristol, CT



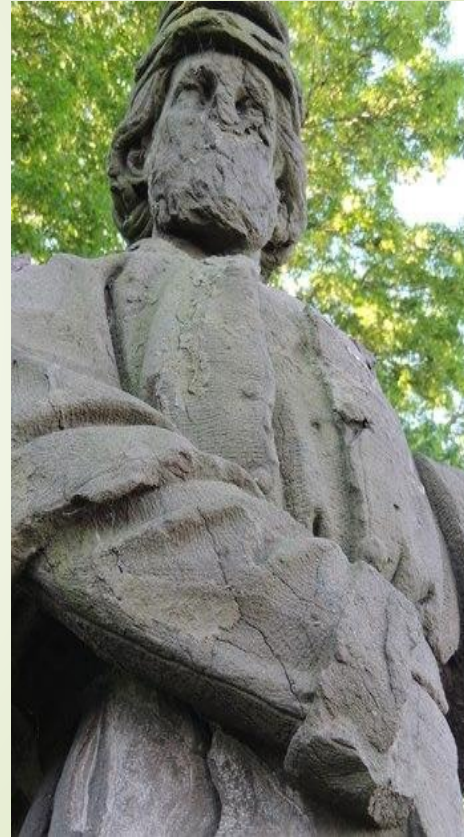
Batterson buys granite quarry in Westerly - July 1867

- ↓ Brownstone price dramatically increased
- ↓ After 1868 Batterson no longer uses brownstone (1872 Portland, Ct exception)
- ↓ By purchasing the quarry in Westerly he could quarry, and sculpt, cut on site
- ↓ Westerly granite is high quality, fine-grained, strong and could support very detailed work
- ↓ Charles Conrads, a German-born sculptor (1839-1920) emigrated in 1860
- ↓ George Keller, architect
- ↓ James William Pollette, carver and Joseph Bedford, carver

Forlorn Soldier

Charles Conrads - sculptor, German, worked for Batterson 1866-1903

- ↓ 1866-68 in Hartford (uncertain date and dedication)
- ↓ Perhaps the first civil war **soldier** statue carved
- ↓ Important features to note:
 - ↪ Forlorn soldier has a beard
 - ↪ Right Foot Forward
 - ↪ No support structure behind his legs
 - ↪ 8 Feet high
- ↓ Statue never sold, rumored to be because of the foot position
- ↓ Military designated that "parade rest" was left foot forward
- ↓ Now thought to be an early prototype, model for Antietam
- ↓ Left in carving shed , on its side in Batterson's shop
- ↓ Stoneyard purchased by Kelly Brothers ,1895, on 93 Charter Oak Ave



Forlorn Soldier moved to Airport Road in 1968

DUM TACET CLAMAT ("While silent, he cries out.")

REJECTED AFTER THE CIVIL WAR FOR A FAULTY FOOT POSITION, THIS BROWNSTONE UNION SOLDIER WAS ACQUIRED IN 1895 BY MICHAEL H. AND JOHN KELLY, STONE CUTTERS, PLACED AT THE CORNER OF CHARTER OAK AVENUE AND UNION STREET IN HARTFORD WHERE, BUFFETED BY FLOOD AND BRUSHED BY VANDALS, HE STOOD UNTIL 1968 WHEN J. MICHAEL KELLY, A GRANDSON, MOVED HIM TO A FAIRER SITE, RESTORING HIS BATTERED ENTITY WITH THE LOVING CARE HE HAD BEEN SO LONG DENIED.



YarnBombing, then saved...

The "notorious" Knitty Gritty Committee

Then saved by friends including...

Dr. Matthew Warshauer of CCSU,

Connecticut Civil War Commemoration

Commission

Travelers Foundation

Peter G. Kelly

Knitty Gritty member of the group wrote, "Yarnbombing is a form of graffiti, where artists use colorful yarn to beautify something." Apparently, motivated by the recent news reports concerning the statue's poor condition,

the police, handcuffed, and people thought that the yarn paint. Ultimately, the KGC member and, in being told that people's soldier's behalf, remarked, "when we saw...he was about to do not know where he will end be too far from his home, and a place of respect and honor, we learn his story."³²

It was one of the members of the Forlorn Soldier that initiated the statue and which ultimately at the Connecticut State Capitol, Wilson, president of the American Civil War Roundtable explained, "I come by here every year and take a look at the soldier. As he deteriorate over the last 150 years to Wilson, she was alarmed in 2012 when the Metropolitan Police Department (MDC) used the property surrounding the statue as a staging area for a construction project. She discussed the matter with Dr. Matthew Warshauer, a friend and co-chair of the Connecticut Civil War Commemoration Commission.

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Forlorn Soldier is moved to new home July, 2013



Connecticut State Capitol

Batterson, Building Contractor - Connecticut State Capitol

- ↓ Completed in 1878, construction began in 1871
- ↓ Richard M. Upjohn architect
- ↓ Batterson-building contractor
- ↓ Batterson revised Upjohn's plan
- ↓ More than doubling the cost
 - Originally 1 million
 - \$2, 500, 000.

Upjohn wanted a square clock tower

Batterson "won" - high circular, gilded dome





GEO. D. BARTLETT
Merchant Tailor
and
CLOTHIER,
Opposite New State House.
10 & 12 FORD ST.
HARTFORD, CONN.

DESIGNED IN THE YEAR 1853 BY GEO. D. BARTLETT IN THE OFFICE OF THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS AT WASHINGTON

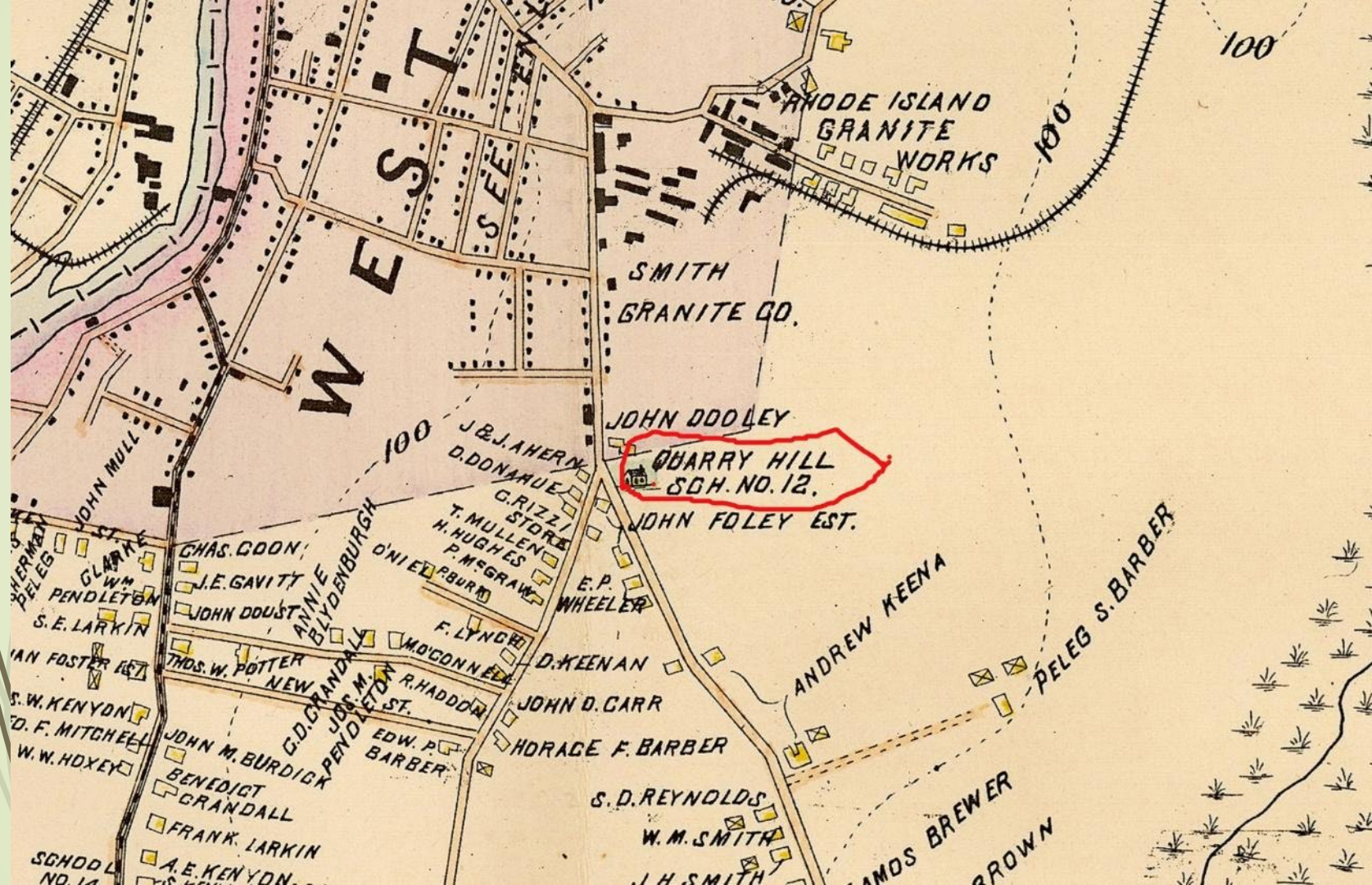
THE NEW STATE HOUSE HFD. CT.

Surrounded by sculptures of marble - Allegories of Humanity: Agriculture, Commerce, Law, War, Science, Music, around a gold leaf dome.



“Much of the exterior used Westerly granite”







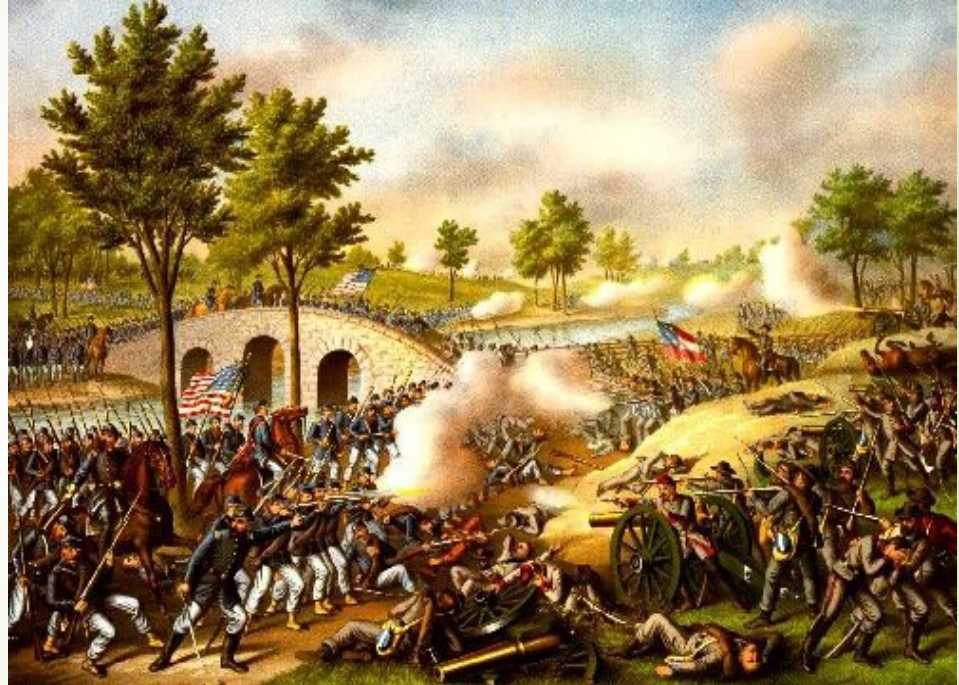
Batterson's Westerly parade float and Quarry



“Bloodiest One-Day Battle in American History”

↓ In total, over 23,000 dead or wounded (both armies) on September 17, 1862

On March 23, 1865 a bill is passed to Purchase this ground for a cemetery



FRANK LESLIE'S ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPER

Published according to the act of Congress in the year 1844, in New York, in the Office of the Publisher, at the corner of Nassau and Broadway Streets, New York.

No. 564—Vol. XV.]

NEW YORK, OCTOBER 18, 1862.

[PRICE 6 CENTS.]

Review of the Week.

GRAND VICTORY AT CORINTH, MISS.—The daily fought National victories of North Mountain and Antietam, in Maryland, have been followed by those of Iuka and Corinth, in Mississippi, which, if true, impinge from the southern aspect, seem to have been more decisive in their results. The battle of Iuka was fought on the 19th of September, between 12,000 National troops, under Gen. Rosecrans, and Gen. Price, on the one hand, and a greatly superior rebel force, and ended in the complete rout of the latter with heavy loss. Price was afterwards retaken by the commands of Gen. Pope's army, under Van Dorn, and by the late rebel general of New Orleans, under Gen. Johnston, making a combined force of 20,000 men. With these Price made an attack on Gen. Rosecrans, on Corinth, on Friday, October 3d. The contest raged with great fury the whole day, and although the enemy were repulsed, he received no attack on Saturday, with desperate vigor. Before noon, however, victory declared for the National army, and the rebels were driven from the field with great slaughter, leaving their dead and wounded behind them. Gen. Rosecrans pursued with energy, and at latest accounts had succeeded in driving Gen. Johnston's division between Price and the Bluffton river, behind which he was retreating.



REBELS DRIVEN BY THE NATIONAL ARMY, WASHINGTON, AFTER A BLOOD BATTLE.

lost made of the losses on either side, but they are reported heavy. The fighting is said to have been desperate. Among the killed is Gen. Harkness, of Indiana.

REBELS IN KENTUCKY.—Gen. Bragg has evacuated Cumberland Gap, and after a severe and sanguinary march of six days, has reached the Ohio river with his whole force, quite strong, and his supplies of war. The guerrillas and irregular forces evacuated around him, but ultimately meeting and fighting, his retreat was effected in a most masterly manner. The evacuation of the Gap, a strong and most important position, was due to the advance of Kirby Smith and Bragg into Kentucky, which is here due to the inferiority and inefficiency of Buell. With Smith and Bragg in his rear and a considerable rebel force under Sherman in front, in a wild mountain pass, with limited supplies, and the distance from which he had previously driven them back for the enemy, the position at the Gap became untenable. The loss of this gateway to East Tennessee is a great one, as it affords a new avenue of escape to the rebels now retreating from Kentucky, and involves another campaign for the recovery before aid can be extended to the suffering Unionists of East Tennessee. It is one of the disasters directly chargeable to the incompetence, or something worse, of Gen. Buell, who is still retained in command, in the despite of the losses and white damage of the National cause.



REBELS AND DISORDERLY FUGITIVE DRIVEN THE BATTLEFIELD OF ANTIETAM WITH THE NATIONAL ARMY, AFTER THE BATTLE OF ANTIETAM, SEPTEMBER, 1862.

REBELS A FUGITIVE OF THE NATIONAL ARMY, SEPTEMBER, 1862.

Antietam Man (American Volunteer or “Old Simon”)

- ↓ Designed by Batterson, and Charles Conrads (sculptor, designer) and George Keller (architect)
- ↓ An “American Soldier” depicted at parade rest (not standing at attention)
- ↓ Commissioned (approx) 1867
- ↓ Completed in 1874
- ↓ Displayed at the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition of 1876
- ↓ Antietam Man has no beard
- ↓ Right foot forward -
- ↓ May 1874 -Antietam Man unveiled in Westerly “A Gala Day in Westerly” Four thousand people in attendance.
- ↓ 1875 Batterson’s firm switches feet, from then on all soldier’s show left foot forward

The Antietam Soldier

Carved in Westerly at the New England Granite Works Co., c.1874, using Westerly white granite

Today located in the Antietam Battlefield, Maryland.

Total Height: Almost 45 feet (soldier and base).
The man on the ladder is James Pollette, one of Westerly's many granite statue carvers.

Cost - \$32,000 (approx \$600,000 today)

*Burdick Collection Courtesy of Robert Utter



Antietam Man

- James Pollette, 26 year old carver
- Monument weighing 30 tons
- Two pieces of granite, cut at belt
- Soldier is 21 and ½ feet tall
- Pedestal and soldier - 44 feet, 7 inches
- Gun is 15 feet high
- Shoe is 3 feet long







“A Gala Day in Westerly”

A large concourse of people numbering some four thousand assembled today at Batterson's quarries to witness the unveiling of the colossal soldier for the Antietam monument. Permission having been obtained from Commissioner McNary of Hartford to have the unveiling a part of the exercises attending Decoration Day, the military companies, fire department, temperance organizations, bands of music, members of legislature, town officers and private persons formed a procession of several hundred and marched to Quarry hill, which overlooks the beautiful village of Westerly. The ceremonies were very interesting, and amid the cheers of the thousands gathered the veil dropped at the feet of the great granite soldier, and at the same time the American flag was waved over the statue.

– “A GALA DAY IN WESTERLY. Unveiling of the Colossal Soldier for the Antietam Monument,”
Hartford Daily Courant, May 30, 1874.

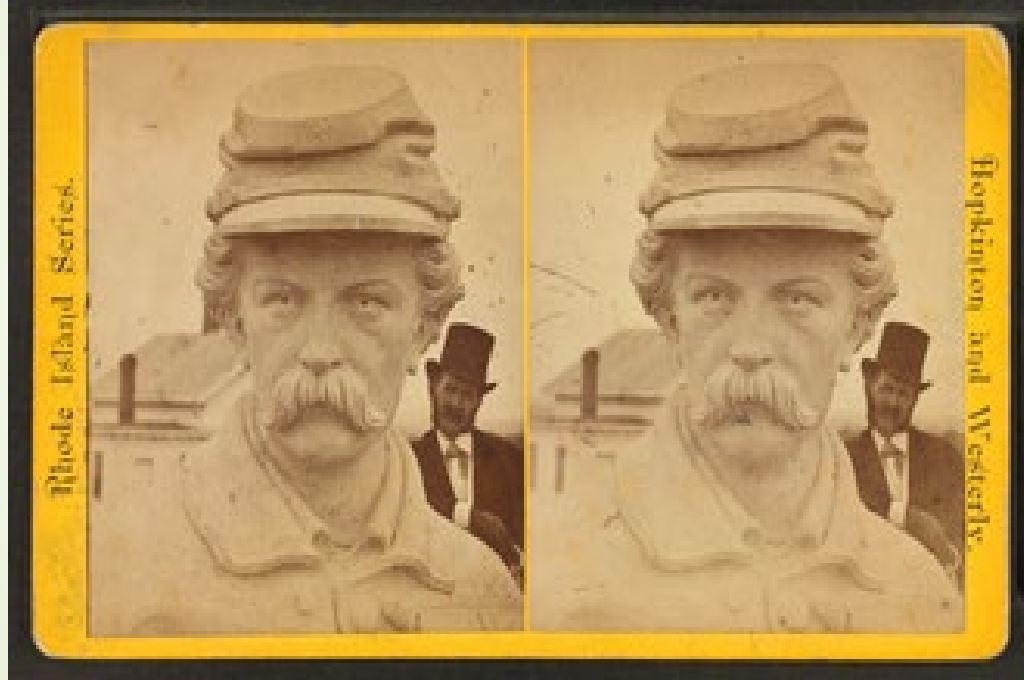
Rhode Island Series.

C. SEEVER, Jr., Photographer.



Hopkinton and Westerly.
O. LANGWORTHY & Co. Ashaway, R. I.

Stereoviews (used in stereoscopes)



American Volunteer

Prominently exhibited at the 1876
Centennial Exposition in
Philadelphia.

This first world's fair was celebrating the
Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration
of Independence in Philadelphia



Final Resting Place

The journey home for the statue, nicknamed “Old Simon,” was delayed for months after a section of the soldier from the waist up fell into the Potomac River.

1880 – Dedication at the Antietam National Cemetery, Sharpsburg, Maryland.

This is the final resting place for over 4,776 Union Soldiers

“Not for themselves, but for their country”





Soldier's Monument, Mystic, CT, 1883



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
AND CIVIL WAR MONUMENT
MYSTIC, CONN.



20703

Clearly left foot forward...

- Dedicated in 1883
- Made of fine grained Westerly granite
- Dedicated to the brave sons of Mystic, who offered their lives for their Country, in the war of rebellion 1861-1865*
- Mystic River Historical Society is in the process of having the eight names of those who lost their lives engraved in the monument. Buzzi will do the engraving (Oct 2025)

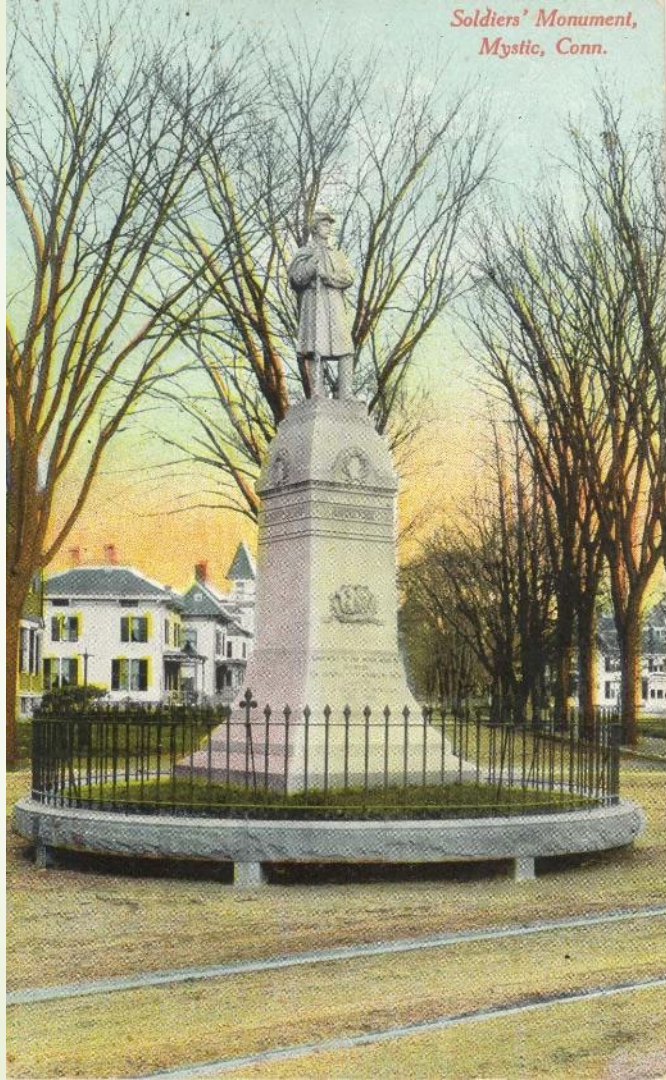


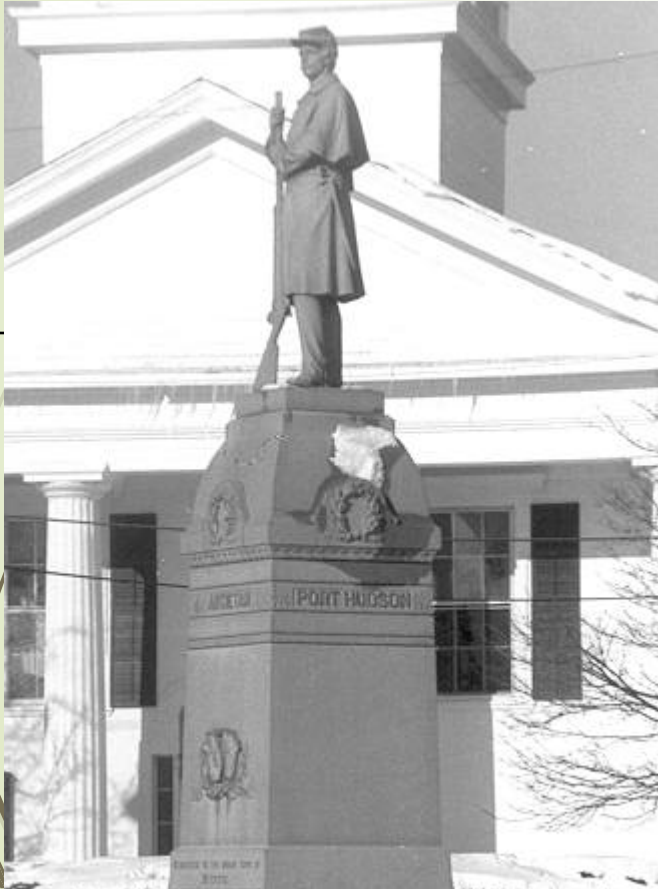
Mystic's Disastrous Dedication

Dedication Day on June 13, 1883, was a major regional event, even though the monument and size of the community were modest. Reporters were in attendance from the *New London Day*, *New London Telegram*, *New York Herald*, *New York Times*, *Providence Journal*, *Norwich Bulletin*, *Stonington Mirror*, *Mystic Press*, *Boston Globe*, *Cooley's Weekly*, *New Haven Register*, *New Haven Palladium*, and *New Haven Union*. The crowd, which arrived by train, wagon, and steamer, was variously estimated at between 5,000 and 12,000 people.

The day was ill-fated. Events got off to a slow start because the train from New London was late. Then, the grandstand collapsed under the weight of the people sitting on it, although no one was hurt. Most dramatically, the firing of the salute (blanks) by the battery of cannon was badly timed to an extreme; it "mowed down" the first three ranks of marchers. "Marchers faces were thoroughly honeycombed with burning powder, clothes were scorched, one leg severely bruised." "Incredible fiasco" and "disastrous" were words used by the press to describe the day (*New London Day*, June 13, 1956).

*Soldiers' Monument,
Mystic, Conn.*





SOLDIERS' MONUMENT

47 East Main Street

Mystic Bridge

Mystic in Stonington, CT

Dedicated: June 13, 1883

Type: Granite pedestal and figure

Designer, fabricator, supplier: James G. Batterson

Sculptor: Charles Conrads, attr.

Donor: Charles Henry Mallory

Height: Approximately 19'

Elm Grove Cemetery, Mystic, CT- Mallory Gates

- ↓ Cemetery established in 1853
- ↓ An example of the rural, Victorian, park-like cemetery
- ↓ Many lovely Smith monuments
- ↓ In memory of Charles Henry Mallory
- ↓ Given by his widow, Eunice and children
- ↓ Mallory ran a steamship line
- ↓ Building of Mallory Gates began in 1892
- ↓ Outrage over the removal of two elms
- ↓ "The Westerly Granite Company"







Cedar Hill





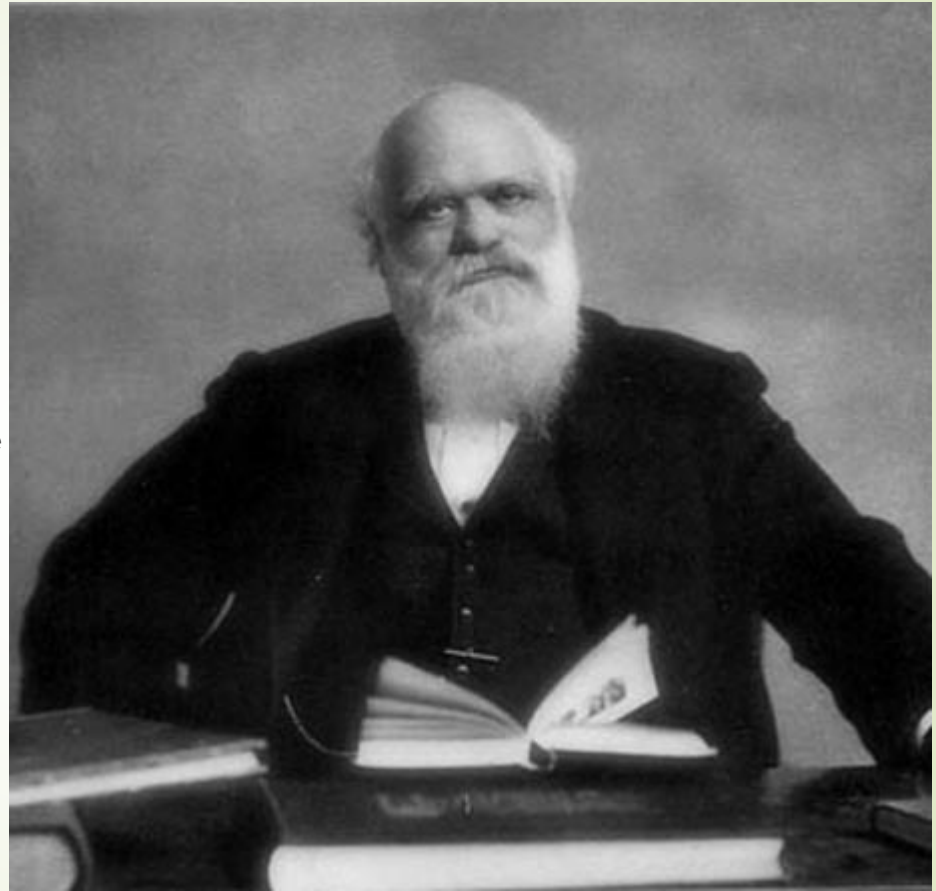
Final Resting Place

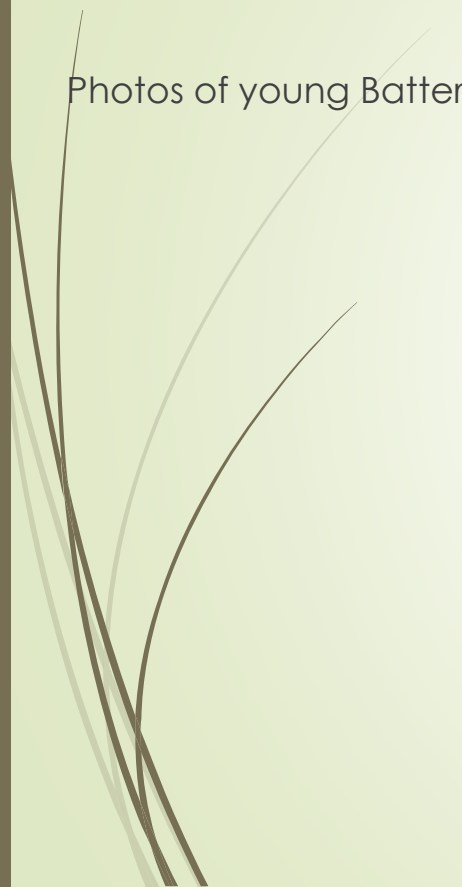
Elm Grove Cemetery



Although James G. Batterson never went to college, he did receive two honorary MA degrees, one from Yale University and one from Williams College. He did make a name for himself. He is remembered.

Thankfully, The Babcock Smith House Museum still honors his work and life.





Photos of young Batterson courtesy of The Travelers Companies