FORWARD

In the early 1960s it was my good fortune to attend Millersville State Teachers' College and pursue a Master's Degree in Education. Choosing a topic for a thesis was, at first, a daunting and confusing struggle until I thought of the old brownstone quarry south of Hummelstown that was a favorite swimming hole during my teenage years. Located near the little settlement of Waltonville which was named after the family that owned the quarry, the pit was huge and while swimming there I often wondered what had happened to the vast amount of stone that had been removed.

Inquiries led me to lawyer Robert T. Fox, Sr. and his son, Robert T. Fox, Jr. (Bob), descendants of the Walton Family and executors of their estate. Upon contacting Bob he graciously scheduled a meeting at which time he encouraged me to pursue a history of the business. All that was needed at this point was the approval of the topic by my advisor, Dr. Burl N. Osburn, Chairman of the Industrial Arts Department, and the hope of finding enough material to make the study possible.

As a man with a deep and abiding appreciation of the historical ramifications of industry in the progress and growth of our country, Dr. Osburn gave his full endorsement to the project, but he cautioned me of the problem of tracking down sufficient information to complete the study. However, the following visit with Bob put my mind at ease, for he produced from his garage three cartons of material containing over 150 personal letters dealing with the business, ledgers, a crude plot plan of the quarries and various buildings, a company charter, etc. There was more than enough material to keep me busy for months to come. Bob then related how, as a 14 year old, he had gone to the quarries with his grandfather, Allen K. Walton, the last president of the Hummelstown

Brownstone Company, while the old man "cleaned out" company records. This "cleaning out" amounted to burning all the material that was in the abandoned office. Bob asked his grandfather if he could have some of it, and these cartons are what he retrieved. They proved to be a valuable cache of information covering the period from 1866 to the early 1890's. This treasure of records is now housed in the Dauphin County Historical Society as the Hummelstown Brownstone Manuscript Group. Unfortunately, much of the record of the later years of the company's existence had been destroyed.

A study of this kind necessitated many photographs, and the person who so ably assumed that responsibility was Janet E. Gallus. Covering much territory in the central Pennsylvania area we photographed many buildings and Janet processed all of the film and prints. This collaboration was the beginning of a deep and growing affection and friendship which culminated in marriage, and her steadfastness, encouragement and love over the past thirty-five years has been a great comfort and linchpin in that marriage.

In my retirement years I found that there was time to devote to a continued study of the Hummelstown brownstone industry. Consequently, beginning in 1998 I was determined to photograph all the extant structures that I could locate that contained Hummelstown brownstone. During the next three years I traveled to upper New York State, New Jersey, Maryland, Washington, D. C., North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, and throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In addition, friends photographed buildings for me in DeLand, Florida; Cleveland, Ohio; and Indianapolis, Indiana. This has resulted in the recording of over 250 structures to which critical comments have been added. These can be found in the Hummelstown Area Historical Society and the Derry Township Historical Society.

During this same period I investigated any records and information that could be found dealing with the industry. The Hummelstown Area Historical Society proved to be a boon in this respect, for among their holdings was a group of abstracts relating to the Hummelstown brownstone industry that Richard Hartwell, a previous owner of the weekly newspaper The Hummelstown Sun,* had taken from issues dating between 1883 to 1907. His apparent interest in and love for the industry is evident, for he must have spent countless hours extrapolating these articles from copy that was difficult to peruse due to the format of the newspaper. These articles are perhaps the best single source of information regarding the social history of the area known as Waltonville as well as a critical addendum to much of the technical history of the brownstone operation.

With this additional information and a greatly expanded collection of color prints, I decided to rework my original thesis in an attempt to enlarge its scope. Then too there was the capability of applying computer graphics to the study which was out of the question in 1965. It now was possible to render illustrations in color with greater impact than the black and white photographs of the original paper. I hope that this effort achieves its intended purpose, for the story of Hummelstown brownstone has been with me for most of my life, and sharing that story with others has been a great joy.

In the following text all cities and towns in Pennsylvania do not have the state specified, while those outside Pennsylvania have the state listed.

December, 2001

In this revision of this study an important addition has been made with the

* The Hummelstown Sun continues as a popular local newspaper and has been renamed The Sun since it serves a wider geographic area than it did over 150 years ago. Moreover, it has been referred to by that name throughout the Hummelstown - Hershey area for generations. Consequently, for reasons of brevity and to reflect its common popular name, this study will use the present name of the paper throughout the body of the work while retaining its old title in the footnotes.

"Portfolio of Hummelstown Brownstone" that follows the glossary. In this section you will find a few hundred photographs and reproductions of old postcards illustrating many structures built wholly or in part of Hummelstown brownstone. One of the great advantages of committing this information to a compact disc rather than a book is the number of color and black and white images that can be viewed. Having hundreds of photographs of buildings and a sizable collection of postcards featuring these structures, I found this to be the ideal way to share them.

Ben Olena - 2003