## "Some Decoration Day Observations"

## A consideration of memorial art as exhibited in a few designs of memorials erected this spring By L. A. Whitehouse

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The article begins:

"Before the close of the Civil War the 30th of May was observed as a holiday in several of the Southern states for the purpose of decorating with flags and flowers the graves of soldiers killed in the war. In the North there was no fixed day commonly celebrated until on May 5th, 1868, when Commander-in-Chief John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic issued a general order designating the date 'for the purpose of strewing with flowers and otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion...In 1882 the Grand Army urged that the 'proper designation of May 30 is Memorial Day' – not Decoration Day. However, no matter which way one may designate it, the day plays a big part in the pans of the monument man, and it is previous to this day, each year, that he erects many of his most highly prized achievements – the work to which he points for proof of his fitness to serve.

"Among the photographs of such work which have been brought to the attention of the writer that deserve special comment are many examples of good design and workmanship, as evidenced by the accompanying illustrations...."

This article, which begins on the next page, is presented on the Stone Quarries and Beyond web site. <a href="http://quarriesandbeyond.org/">http://quarriesandbeyond.org/</a>

Peggy B. Perazzo
Email: pbperazzo@comcast.net
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## Some Decoration Day Observations

A Consideration of Memorial Art as Exhibited in a Few Designs of Memorials Erected This Spring

By L. A. WHITEHOUSE.

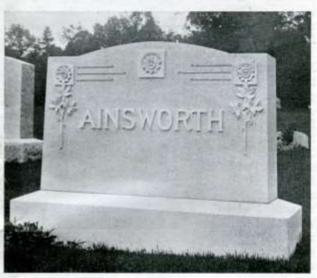
EFORE the close of the Civil War the 30th of May was observed as a holiday in several of the Southern states for the purpose of decorating with flags and flowers the graves of soldiers killed in the war. In the North there was no fixed day commonly celebrated until on May 5th, 1868, when Commander-in-Chief John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic issued a general order designating the date "for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion"; Logan did this "with the hope that it will be kept up from year to year." In 1882 the Grand Army urged that the "proper designation of May 30 is Memorial Day"—not Decoration Day. However, no matter which way one may designate it, the day plays a big part in the plans of the monument man, and it is previous to this

ERECTED BY W. H. HARRISON GRANITE CO., NEW YORK, CITY, TO THE MEMORY OF THE LATE MR. POST OF POSTUM CEREAL FAME.

day, each year, that he erects many of his most highly prized achievements—the work to which he points for proof of his fitness to serve. Among the photographs of such work which have been brought to the attention of the writer that deserve special comment are many examples of good design and workmanship, as evidenced by the accompanying illustrations.

All of us are interested in the work of "the other fellow" and those who have been kind enough to make this somewhat limited exhibition possible reflect the guiding spirit of the association.

A few remarks concerning the different illustrations here employed may not be amiss and the



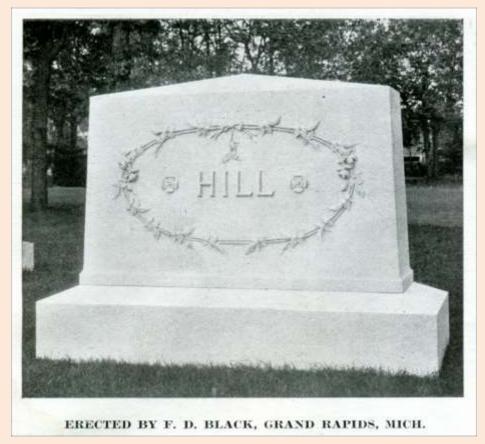
ERECTED BY F. D. BLACK, GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

reader will, perhaps, glean a helpful point, here and there, to be used in consummating future sales,

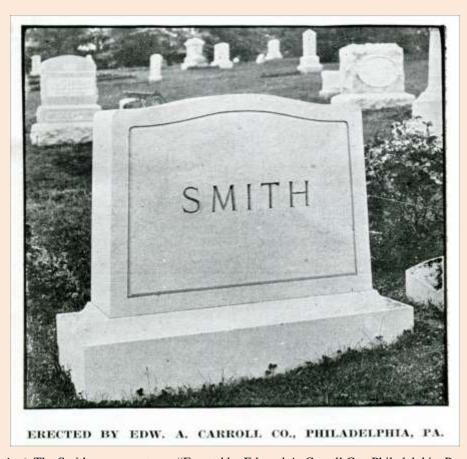
Since it does not follow, by any means, that a memorial to be "appropriate" must be a composition of elaborate ornamentation; attention might be centered, for the moment, upon the "Smith" tablet—simplicity itself, with its name and border forming its panel, in perfect harmony. Or again, a scrutiny of the "Martin" reveals an all-polished memorial of excellent proportions, a decidedly preferable type to such as the "riotous polished and traced nonentity."

The "Ainsworth" and "Hill" memorials are tablets of analogous import and display skillful workmanship as well as a certain ingeniousness of design. Both were erected by F. D. Black of Grand Rapids, Mich.—the "Hill" patterned after one of the prize winning designs exhibited at the Denver convention and the "Ainsworth," according to Mr.

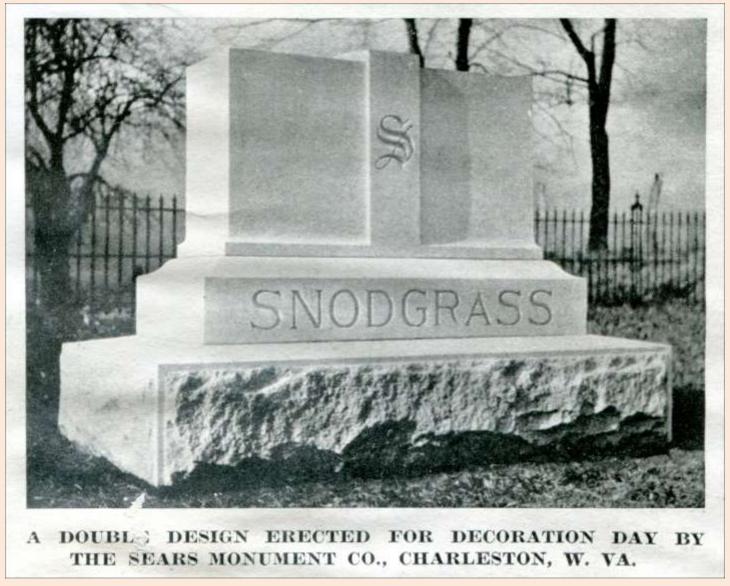
(photo captions) (left) The C. W. Post monument was "Erected by W. H. Harrison Granite Co., New York City, to the memory of the late Mr. Post of Postum Cereal fame. (right) The Ainsworth monument was "Erected by F. D. Black, Grand Rapids, Mich."



(photo caption) The Hill monument was "Erected by F. D. Black, Grand Rapids, Michigan."



(photo caption) The Smith monument was "Erected by Edward A. Carroll Co., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania."



(photo caption) The Snodgrass monument is "A double design erected for decoration day by the Sears Monument Co., Charleston, West Virginia."

Black, being of entirely new design and the only monument sold therefrom to date.

The "Arthur A. End" tablet well illustrates the modelling of A. S. Hill and is unusual, inasmuch as a reproduction of Watt's picture of "Hope" has been significantly introduced. Stotzer Granite Co. of Milwankee are the builders.

By way of variation and in true appreciation of the public memorial that does not "jar," the reader is urged to carefully consider the illustration of the "Post" monument at Battle Creek, Mich. It speaks for itself and is nothing more than it pretends to



ERECTED BY CARL MANTHEY & SONS, GREEN BAY, WIS,

be—a quality, by the way, that would be quite acceptable were it to find its way into a majority of our cementery monuments.

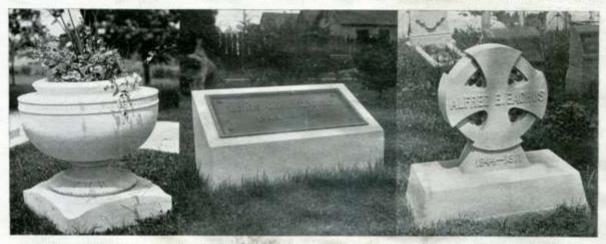
And now come two very attractive forms of memorial—the flower vase so particularly suited for



ERECTED BY STOLZER GRANITE CO., MILWAUKEE, WIS.

Memorial Day purposes and the little head-cross "Eachus" from the house of Detwiler, Phoenixville, Pa. The cross is inscribed with letters in relief, the bars of which have been rounded, instead of the incised inscription letters usually favored in such work. It is an expensive though refreshing type of grave marker; as is also the "Louis Rosenzweig" stone with its delicately wrought bronze panel.

Other monuments—a great many other monuments—of beautiful design and unquestioned propriety found their way into being previously to last "Decoration Day" and they serve well their part in making the day a permanent American institution. It has come to mean something else besides the "big day" for the monument man—it should



VASE ON THE LEFT AND CROSS ON THE RIGHT ERECTED BY GEO. A. DETWILER, PROENIXVILLE, PA., MARKER DESIGNED AND ERECTED BY H. A. MASON CO., ERIE, PA.

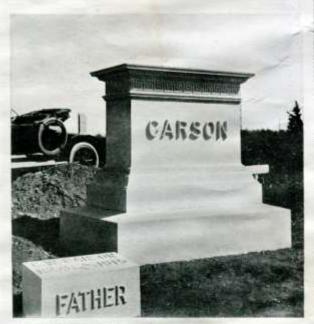
(photo captions) (above, left) The Martin monument was "Erected by Carl Manthey & Sons, Green Bay, Wisconsin." (top, right) The Arthur A. End monument was "Erected by Stolzer Granite Co., Milwaukee, Wisconsin." (bottom) "Vase on the left and cross on the right erected by George A. Detwiler, Phoenixville, Pennsylvania. Marker designed and erected by H. A. Mason Co., Erie, Pennsylvania."



MAUSOLEUM DESIGNED AND BUILT THIS SUMMER BY THE COLWELL GRANITE CO., PITTSBURGH, PA.

Fred E. Beach, retail dealer at Sleepy Eye, Minn., recently received a large shipment of granite from St. Cloud, Minn. He has orders for Sleepy Eye, Leavenworth, Hendricks, Canby and other points in his territory.

O. S. Bowen, retail dealer at Coshocton, O., is using a description of some fine memorial in its newspaper advertising in order to create an interest in the better class of work. This will prove very productive in an educational way for the people in his territory. Last month in one of his advertisements he used this description; "The Linne monument in Chicago is one of the most pretentions



A FINE DECORATION DAY MEMORIAL ERECTED BY W. B. CATON & SON, WINFIELD, KANS.

sculptural memorials erected in this country. Surrounding the base are four figures typifying the virtues and activities of the man in whose memory the monument was erected." A line cut of this monument is shown,

Harry J. Knipe, Columbia, Pa., is a believer in newspaper advertising and his advertisements show that he gives a great deal of thought to the wording. In one of his advertisements last month he made this statement; "Prices very moderate, compared with our way of doing the work." This is in marked contrast to the many advertisements that read; "The best work at the lowest prices."

Edward C. Kreutzer, retail monument dealer at Wheeling, W. Va., secured the contract for the monument to Maj. Samuel McColloch, on a design made by himself. The monument will be dedicated in September. The funds for this work were raised by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Toulon Monument Works, Toulon, Ill., recently secured the contract for a large monument to be erected in Andover, Henry County, to the Rev.



ONE OF THE GOOD DESIGNS ERECTED THIS SPRING BY THE SEARS MONUMENT CO., CHARLESTON, W. VA.

Satterdahl, for 18 years pastor of the Swedish Lutheran Church at that place,

B. C. Bruce, retail dealer at Holdredge, Neb., is creeting a large memorial on his own lot to the memory of his deceased wife, Emma C. Bruce.

C. V. Priest, proprietor of the Newark Mostament Co., Newark, O., recently received a carload of new stock work and is inviting the public to see his work as displayed in his showroom.

Fire recently destroyed the large shed of Adler's Monument & Granite Works in New York City with a loss estimated at about \$100,000. Sparks from the boiler house are given as the cause of the fire.

Richard A. Swanson, R. A. Swanson Monumental Co., Denver, Colo., reports that he has just

(photo captions) (top left) The Wallower "Mausoleum (was) designed and built this summer (1917) by the Colwell Granite Co., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania." (right) The Hale monument is "One of the good designs erected this spring (1917) by the Sears Monument Co., Charleston, West Virginia." (lower left) The Carson monument is "A fine Decoration Day memorial erected by W. R. Caton & Son, winfield, Kansas."

secured another contract for a large mausoleum and that he will commence work on this at an early date.

R. W. Carr, Charlotte, Mich., recently erected a \$1,000 soldiers' and sailors' monument at that place.

The Colwell Granite Co., Pittsburgh, Pa., has commenced work on erecting the granite parts of the Schenley memorial fountain for Schenley Park. Victor D. Brenner is the sculptor of the work.

W. W. Kessler & Son, Columbia City, Kans., recently erected a fine monument in the Catholic cemetery in Huntington County.

## UNUSUAL CELEBRATION AT MONUMENT

An interesting dispatch from Washington, D. C., June 6, was as follows:

"Veterans and their families will witness an unusual patriotic spectacle at five o'clock tomorrow afternoon at the base of the monument, when the Southern Society will present a living American flag of huge dimensions, made up of 2300 children from the public schools. The staff of the flag will be made by a line of Boy Scouts in uniform."



ERECTED THIS SPRING BY CARL MANTHEY & SONS CO., GREEN BAY, WIS. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT CARL MANTHEY HAS ERECTED THIS MONUMENT AS HIS OWN PRIVATE MEMORIAL.



SOME DECORATION DAY WORK OF J. BIANCHI & SON, BUFFALO, N. Y. GOOD EXAMPLE OF DESIGN SUITED TO ITS SURROUNDINGS.

(photo captions) (top right) The Carl Manthey monument was "Erected this spring (1917) by Carl Manthey & Sons Co., Green Bay, Wisconsin. It is interesting to note that Carl Manthey has erected this monument as his own private memorial." (bottom) "Some Decoration Day work of J. Bianchi & Son, Buffalo, New York. Good example of design suited to its surroundings." (The Eberhardt monument is in the above page.)