Detail Carving for the Iowa State Soldiers’ Monument

Presented in Charles H. More & Co. advertisements in 1894, Barre, Vermont

(article in three parts)

(1) “Detail Carving for the Iowa’s Soldiers’ Monument,” in The Monumental News, July 1894, pp. 343
(2) “Detail Carving for the Iowa’s Soldiers’ Monument, No. 2,” in The Monumental News, August 1894, pp. 391
(3) “Detail Carving for the Iowa’s Soldiers’ Monument, No. 3,” in The Monumental News, September 1894, pp. 443

According to this article, granite quarried in Barre, Vermont, was used for the Iowa State Soldier’s Monument. The carving was done by Carl Rohlsmith. For this monument, Charles H. More & Co. remodeled and equipped one of the largest cutting establishments in the country, which was formerly owned by Wetmore & Morse Granite Company.

This three-part article, which begins on the next page, is presented on the Stone Quarries and Beyond web site.

http://quarriesandbeyond.org/

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Detail Carving for the Iowa Soldiers’ Monument.

The models of the more important carvings for the Iowa State Soldiers’ Monument (cost $25,000) which we are now manufacturing have just been completed. The more or less conventional style of carving shown on the original plans have been changed by the eminent artist Carl Rohlsmith into most unique, artistic and beautiful designs, which will tax the carver’s skill to the very utmost.

The lower cap measures 23.4 square and 8.0 thick, showing a very fine piece of carving on 4 sides. It is intended to encircle 4 bronze plates 3.0 in diameter. The carved part of cap is 14.0 long, 5.4 high. This reproduction from the model gives an excellent general idea of the design, but it has not been possible to show to its full extent the very heavy and at the same time delicate relief work. There are to be 12 columns on die, and we show here a very fine cut of the capitals. There are 3 ripe ears of corn on each, a very appropriate decoration for an Iowa Monument.

The very fact that our plant is equipped with every facility in the way of modern machinery and appliances for the execution of such fine work should be sufficient assurance to the trade that we can handle all classes of monumental work to the best possible advantage, and guarantee our customers the best work and prompt delivery.

CHAS. H. MORE & CO.

Western Office: 53 Dearborn St., Chicago.
Main Office: Barre, Vermont.
Foreign Office: 107 Union St., Aberdeen, Scot.
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No. 2.

It is only by looking back 15 or 20 years that we realize how great has been the progress of the granite industry. Not only has the consumption for monumental, as well as building purposes, greatly increased, but the art of working the material has developed in proportion and there has been a steady improvement in designing so as to do full justice to the possibilities of the material.

A very good illustration of modern monumental decoration is given by the accompanying cut representing a section of the columns of the Iowa State Soldiers' Monument which is now being manufactured of Barre Granite at our yards in Montpelier and Barre, Vt. Aside from the artistic beauty of design, the immense size of the anchors and heavy relief of the wreaths are worthy of notice. There are 8 anchors measuring 10 feet in length. The wreaths are relieved at the extreme point about ten inches. This massive section will be 9 ft. 0 in. in diameter.

Since securing this very important contract for the State of Iowa we have bought and taken possession of one of the largest granite cutting establishments in the country formerly owned by the Wetmore & Morse Granite Co. The plant has been remodelled and equipped with modern machinery for dressing, cutting and handling granite of any dimensions. Our shipping facilities are unsurpassed. We solicit an opportunity of furnishing estimates on all classes of monumental work.

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NO. 3.

WE PRESENT our readers this month with an illustration of the most important part of the granite work for the Iowa Soldiers’ Monument. This is the top capital and will be 12 ft. 6 in. in diameter and 11 ft. in height. The illustration shows only one section of the model completed. The first course or moulding as shown in the cut is a trifle more than one foot high, which will give some idea of the large scale upon which the carving is laid out. When in position, this massive piece of work is to be seen at an elevation exceeding 100 feet, and it is to be regretted that work so elaborate in character and difficult of execution should be placed at such a height as to be practically lost to the casual observer. The contract for this important work is the largest that has ever been let in Barre, and we have spared no expense to thoroughly equip our plant with the necessary facilities for its satisfactory execution. Our friends in the trade and dealers in general when visiting Montpelier are cordially invited to visit our establishment and see the work in operation. Important as this contract is it is in no way interfering with our regular monumental work, which we are in better shape than ever to handle. Do not hesitate to send for estimates on any of your work.

CHAS. H. MORE & CO.

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