

JOHN MATTHEWS AND SONS

PIONEER STONEMEN



BY

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Several names appear prominently in the history of the limestone business throughout the last half of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Sometimes it seems that behind every grout pile there lurks a Hoadley. The name Matthews is no exception and John Matthews and his sons played a seminal role in that history. He has been called the “father of the limestone industry” and is often referred to as a pioneer in the business.¹ This paper is a brief look at the Matthews, father and sons, and their legacy.

Beginnings

John Matthews was born on October 10, 1806 in Sussex County, England.² He was a stone sawyer by trade and met his second wife Mary Ann Drake in London while working for her father on the new parliament building.³ A fire in 1834 had destroyed the seat of government and in 1837 John began working on the rebuilding. John had been married previously to a Bridget Dunn and their son Alfred had been born about 1829. Alfred would come to the United States with the family but a daughter from that first marriage, Catherine Sophia, although she may have come to America for a time, eventually returned to England.⁴ She had been born in 1826 and died on January 21, 1909. Nothing is known about the first wife Bridget or the manner in which the marriage was ended. Presumably she died.⁵ Alfred would die in 1891 in Ellettsville, Indiana but would not play the role his half-brothers did in the stone business. John married Mary Ann Drake on December 8, 1836. That marriage would produce twelve children of whom nine would become adults.

¹ *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for Matthews Stone Company District*, Jan. 16, 2012, p. 27. Hereafter referred to as *Bybee National Registration Application* or simply as *Bybee*. A copy of this was kindly provided to me by Nancy E. Jonas, the current owner of the Matthews Mansion. It states that he was being called a pioneer in the industry as early as 1876.

² Hope Miller Matthews, *John Matthews and his Descendents*, p. 11. This magnificent 338 page genealogy was transcribed from the original manuscript in 2010 by Mita Wilsey Glass in conjunction with Indiana Bedrock and can be found online at indianabedrock.org. Further references to this work will be cited as *Genealogy*. Unless otherwise cited, all information about the early family before their arrival in Ellettsville comes from this source.

³ Matthews family tradition clearly holds that Mary Ann was a lady-in-waiting to Queen Victoria and a descendant of Sir Francis Drake. It seems the illiterate John aimed high. There is no reference to this in the *Genealogy* nor does Dorothy Isabella Matson Vawter (1899-1997) refer to it in her *Autobiography*. She was a great-granddaughter of John and Mary Ann. The earliest reference to this particular family tradition I found was in *The Indianapolis Sunday Star*, July 17, 1932, p. 28. We must not forget that Mary Ann and John named a son Francis Drake Matthews.

⁴ *Genealogy*, p. 10.

⁵ In *Bybee*, p. 30, it clearly says he was a widower. The *Genealogy* is silent on the nature of the end of the first marriage.

In 1849 the family of John and Mary Ann consisted of the son Alfred and daughter Catherine Sophia (although she may not have been living with them) by his first wife and their sons Peter Thomas, Francis Drake, and Norbert William and daughters Ann and Jane. For all his life Norbert William Matthews would use the name William Norbert Matthews and he will be referred to as such from now on in this work.⁶ Those three sons had been born in the years 1841, 1843, and 1844 respectively. The girls Anne and Jane had been born in 1846 and 1847. The first born John Drake Matthews had survived but one year and eight months and son George lived but five months.

On April 21, 1849, John left England for America on the bark *Dibden* bound from Liverpool to New Orleans. As luck would have it the ship's crew mutinied and put into port at Antigua in the West Indies on May 29, 1849. He got to New Orleans on July 9, 1849 and on June 6, 1850, the rest of the family joined him after their Atlantic voyage on the *Uriell*. For an unknown reason Mary Ann and the four boys (including Alfred) and two girls were listed on the passenger list as all being born in Ireland.⁷ In an autobiography written by a great-granddaughter, Dorothy Vawter, she gives a possible reason why the family didn't travel together by noting that Mary Ann was pregnant with their son George. He was born in June, 1849 but died that November.⁸

From New Orleans the family travelled to Cincinnati, Ohio by boat and son James L. was born there on July 8, 1851. John later worked in a marble quarry near Madison, Indiana, called Marble Hill. (This was the same area that gave its name to the aborted nuclear energy power plant that was stopped in mid-construction many years later.) He also worked for a time in

⁶ *Genealogy*, p. 52.

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. vii. Here the date for Mary Ann's arrival is wrong. It says she "sailed from Liverpool 31 Mar 1850 on the ship Uriel [sic], arriving in New Orleans 6 Jan 1850." You can't get there before you leave. Nancy E. Jonas has supplied the loose-leaved early original version of the *Genealogy* which has a xerox copy of a letter from Lloyd's in London stating that "...the barque [sic] 'URIELL' sailed from Liverpool on 31st March, 1850, under the command of a Captain Simpson, arriving at New Orleans on 6th June." In an article in *Quarries and Mills*, May 1929, Vol. I No. I, entitled "John Matthews and Sons: Pioneer Quarrymen" written by a later descendent named John Matthews, it states on page 8 that "About the year 1848 when Mr. Matthews landed at New Orleans, the family arriving 18 months later..." At any rate we must not lose track of the fact that John and Mary Ann had to be together to conceive James who was born on July 8, 1851. That would have been October, 1850. William N. Matthews stated in his naturalization process that he arrived in New Orleans on May 29, 1849 (*Genealogy*, p. 52).

Page 279 of the *Genealogy* gives a synopsis of the talk Prof. J. Edwin Culbertson, who bought the Mansion in 1955, gave to the local historical society in 1960. The good professor taught in the Department of Speech and Theatre at Indiana University and showed his background by having a "fine sense of the dramatic" and telling his story "in a highly dramatic style." Dr. Culbertson could gild the lily with the best of them and relates that the mutineers "put Mr. Matthews off in a dory and headed for New Orleans." Naturally he cannot help himself from relating that Mary Ann was related to Sir. Francis Drake and had been a lady-in-waiting to Queen Victoria. I had Dr. Culbertson for two courses in the mid 1960s and he was an extremely entertaining lecturer. The synopsis is quoted word for word in *The Journal* (Ellettsville) for February 10, 1960, pp. 1 & 6 and no doubt is where the *Genealogy* got it. The Francis Drake and lady-in-waiting references are family traditions that pre-date Dr. Culbertson but there is no evidence for either in any of the sources.

⁸ Dorothy Isabella Matson Vawter, *The Autobiography of Dorothy Isabella Matson Vawter, (1899-1997)*, 1999, p. 2.

Louisville, Kentucky before finally moving to Stinesville, Indiana. There Susan A., Phoebe, and Frederick were born in 1854, 1856, and 1859 respectively. Little Charles was born in 1853 but lived only five months. The arrival of Frederick in 1859 made the family complete with five sons and four daughters plus Alfred by the first wife. Catherine Sophia remained in England.⁹



Figure 1 John and Mary Ann Drake Matthews.



Figure 2 John Matthews.



Figure 3 Mary Ann Drake Matthews

⁹ See footnote 38 on page 32 that describes the letter giving the death date and location for Alfred. It also states that Catherine, Alfred's sister, came over to the United States, stayed awhile, and returned England.

Stinesville/Ellettsville

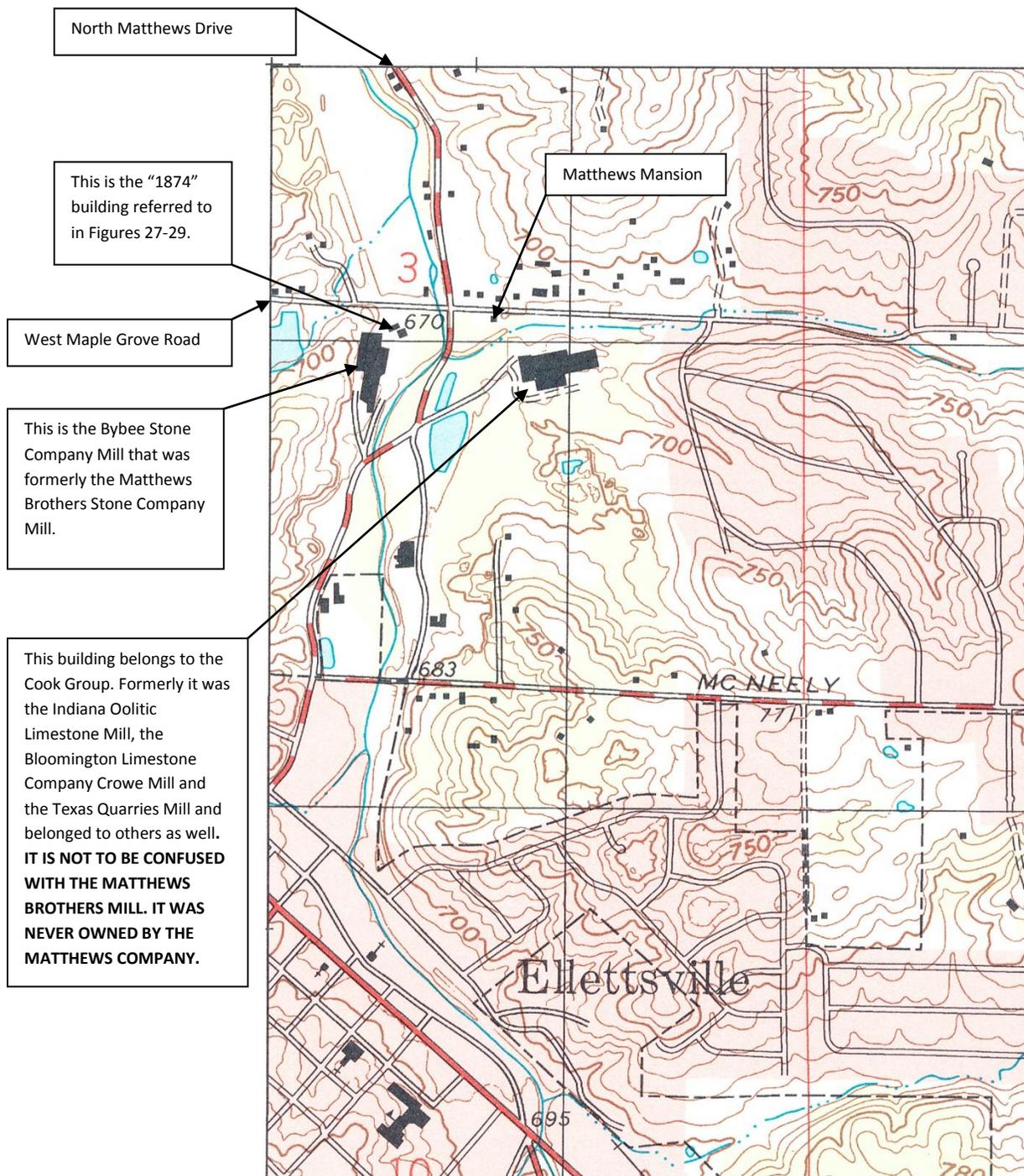


Figure 4 This was taken from the USGS 1998 Bloomington Quadrangle 7.5-minute Series.

John Matthews began working for a quarry owner in Stinesville in 1855.¹⁰ He would have been fifty years old in 1856 with a wife and nine children (we must never forget Alfred). But he had an abundance of experience working with stone and the ambition to seek a new life in America. Somewhere along the line he also acquired a good head for business and the company that he founded would always be near the top of the industry. He was also one of the earliest to work in the limestone district in Indiana. He moved to Ellettsville in 1860 and began quarrying at the location where the Bybee Mill now stands. Until he built the mansion much later, the family occupied "...a humble home north of town, close to the present plant of Matthews Brothers Co."¹¹ When he opened his own quarry in 1862 (and that was the date the company always regarded as its founding year) it was the fourth one in the area. The earlier ones were in 1827 by Richard Gilbert, 1853 by E. M. Watts and William Biddle, and 1860 by James S. Williams.¹² He introduced the use of hand crosscut saws measuring 10 to 12 feet long and operated by two men.¹³ "He was then one of the first to add a scabbling [sic] yard, an area where rough blocks were given a more uniform, rectangular shape by trimming irregular or waste areas prior to shipment."¹⁴ This saved on transportation costs. He had the assistance of Alfred but not until Peter and William returned from the Civil War would the business start to grow substantially. "About 1864 a four gang mill was erected, being the first one in the district."¹⁵ In 1875 the first Wardwell channeling machine was introduced in the district. This device was invented in 1863 by George J. Wardwell of Rutland, Vermont. "This is a small locomotive which runs back and forth on a portable track carrying a gang of chisels coupled to an eccentric wheel on one or both sides of the machine."¹⁶ At the 1876 International Exhibition in Philadelphia, John won an Award of Merit for "an elaborately carved anchor."¹⁷ In Batchelor's work on the economic history of the limestone business, he cites Matthews and Sons along with the Perry Brothers as being two companies that successfully made the transition from hand to mechanized methods of stonework.¹⁸ There is no reason to dispute the conclusion that

All of these innovations advanced John Matthews' company ahead of his competitors in being able to supply stone directly from the quarry to the job site, and made his company profitable when others were not. Although other companies would be established and also become leaders

¹⁰ Charles Blanchard. *History of Monroe County*. Chicago: F. A. Battey & Co., 1884, pp. 633-4. All the family sources agree on the date. The *Bybee National Register Application* states on page 22 that it was in the Biddle and Watts Mill that John worked.

¹¹ John Matthews "John Matthews and Sons: Pioneer Quarrymen." *Quarries and Mills*, Vol. I, No. 1 (May, 1929), p. 8.

¹² Joseph A. Batchelor, Ph. D. *An Economic History of the Indiana Oolitic Limestone Industry*. The School of Business, Indiana University, Bloomington, 1944, p. 10.

¹³ *Ibid.*, p. 12.

¹⁴ *Bybee*, p. 27. The word is actually "scabbling."

¹⁵ John Matthews, *op. cit.*, p. 8.

¹⁶ Batchelor, *op. cit.*, p. 39.

¹⁷ *Bybee National Register Application*, p. 23.

¹⁸ Batchelor, *op. cit.*, p. 48.

in later years, John Matthews has been labeled as the “father” of the Indiana limestone industry and his company was called the industry’s “pioneer” as early as 1876.¹⁹

By 1864 the company formed by John Matthews was operating as the John Matthews and Sons Stone Company. After John died in 1883 it became the Matthews Brothers Stone Company. The family continued to run the business until a fire in 1977 damaged the drafting building and that, along with declining stone market, caused work at the mill to cease. In 1979 it was bought by Wilbur Bybee and continues to this day as the Bybee Stone Company.

While this work is not a history of the company, we can note in passing an indication of the size, reputation, and nationwide scope of Matthews stone business by listing some of the buildings for which they supplied stone. That list would include thousands of buildings, large and small, but most readers would be familiar with the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, the Scottish Rite Cathedral in Indianapolis, Indiana, the Illinois State Capitol in Springfield, Illinois, and the Memorial Union Building in Bloomington, Indiana. Other companies supplied some stone to these particular buildings as well. The company started out quarrying limestone, but over the years a transition to cut stone work in the mill increased as the quarry work declined. The original quarry was closed about 1900.²⁰

The Mansion

Perhaps the longest lasting legacy left on the landscape of Monroe County by John Matthews is his magnificent house. It was built around 1879-80 on land that he had purchased in 1876.²¹ The architectural description of the house is Second Empire with “borrowed elements from the Beaux Arts style.”²² The following are selections from the extended description that can be found in the Bybee National Register Application:

The house consists of one and a half floors above grade and a below grade basement level. It is constructed of very large blocks²³ laid without mortar...[and] is capped with a characteristic flat-sided mansard roof and displays a central pavilion on the west

¹⁹ *Bybee National Register Application, op. cit.*, p.27.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 23. A long list of buildings is in “To See Matthews Bros. Work,” *The Journal* (Ellettsville), December 26, 1962.

²¹ *Bybee National Register Application* has the dates correct for the purchase of the land and is relied upon for the building date. Nancy E. Jonas, the current owner, has kindly supplied me with the abstract of title that shows the date of purchase as July 17, 1876 and gives the source as page 35 of the *Deed Record 8*. Almost every other source gives the construction of the house beginning in the early 1860s and interrupted by the Civil War. They say it was completed about 1867. The Matthews family accounts are all in agreement with this. They are wrong. You don’t build a house on land you don’t yet own.

²² Unless otherwise credited all the description of the house comes from the *Bybee National Register Application*.

²³ The *Genealogy* states that the blocks are 22 inches thick. Given the scrupulously detailed description of the house in the *Bybee National Register Application* I would have thought that fact would have been mentioned. I can confirm that by my own measurement.

façade....The original elaborate iron railing lines the edge of the roof section, however, some original pieces are missing due to previous vandalism. There are two double-flue, capped chimneys, one of which retains the original decorative limestone skin consisting of dentils and incised panels.

An uncovered limestone veranda with iron balustrade stretches across the full width of the west façade above the basement entrances. It is accessed on either end by heavy limestone block stairs that ascend toward the east to the upper yard level. The stairs have squared side walls capped with upside-down consoles. The design matches that of the east entrance but is of a much grander scale. Wide stairs with end brackets on the risers ascend from ground level to each end of the veranda.

The layout of the first and second floors is symmetrical. Each has a central hall and stairwell dividing four rooms. The basement plan is similar, with four rooms divided by load bearing walls and a central stair ascending into the southwest room... The ceilings [first floor] are twelve feet high. All window and door openings are eleven feet high... The French doors at the west entrance open into a wide hall which extends to the east entrance... A formal room immediately flanks the hall on either side to the north and south. Each of the formal rooms has a fireplace with a coal-burning insert...The northeast and southeast rooms are dimensionally slightly smaller than the west rooms. They are without crown molding and were originally heated by wood stoves. The southeast room has been remodeled into a more contemporary kitchen. Part of the northeast room was repurposed to accommodate a bathroom.

Although the ceilings [on the second floor] were originally twelve feet high, previous alterations lowered them to around eleven feet high. All window and door openings are eleven feet high. Four panel, solid wood doors are throughout the second floor. Wide, squared, carved molding surrounds each opening with a transom above each door...Etched glass panels called “flash glass” originally filled the transoms... Following the symmetry of the first floor, there are two bedrooms off either north-south side of the hallway. A large window, inset with a lower wood panel, is at each end of the hallway. The central pavilion balcony is accessed through the west end window, and the roundel window above is accessed by a small panel in the west hallway ceiling. Each bedroom has a closet with a five panel wood door with ceramic knobs. However, the northeast room was altered to accommodate a bathroom, which has its own entry door off the hall.

A wood door leads from the first floor hallway to the limestone block basement stairs, placed directly beneath the upper floor run. Two large formal rooms make up the west half, while two smaller unfinished rooms constitute the east half...A fireplace is in each room²⁴...The unfinished rooms consist of poured concrete floors and rubble block walls with a low rubble block ledge along the east wall for increased stability. The spaces accommodate the mechanicals and storage.

There is some question about whether the house was originally called “Graymont” or a subsequent owner gave it that name. Generally the house is simply referred to as the Matthews

²⁴ This is an error. There is no fireplace in the southwest basement room. This is one in the northwest room.

Mansion.²⁵ On the west side of the house on the limestone supports for the balcony are “the carvings of children’s faces which line the cornice, for years suggested to be either those of some of the Matthew’s children in their younger years, or possibly those that had died in childhood.”²⁶ There are four faces but the *Genealogy* only lists three children to have died while quite young. John Drake Matthews died at age 20 months and George and Charles each died at 5 months. Of course there could have been a miscarriage to account for the fourth face. In 1876 when John acquired the land, the four youngest children were James, Susan, Phoebe, and Frederick whose ages would have been 25, 22, 20, and 17 respectively and all born in the United States. To this observer the faces are of two boys and two girls. Nancy E. Jonas, the current resident, makes the good suggestion that those are the four faces. The reader is left to his own imagination to assign meaning to the faces. Perhaps for a family of nine offspring this was the intention all along.

After John died in May of 1883, Mary Ann lived on in the house until she died in October, 1894. The *Bybee National Register Application* states that the Matthews family “ceased occupancy of the house in the early 1900s, and in 1921 it was sold to Cora F. Perry, who operated Perry Stone Company from the site.” There was a period of vacancy sometime during the subsequent years when the house “suffered greatly from both vandalism and neglect.” Prof. J. Edwin Culbertson bought the house in 1955 and since then it has been continuously occupied.

Finally we must deal with the intriguing question of whether the French architect Charles Garnier, who designed the Paris Opera House, also designed the Matthews Mansion. According to the *Genealogy* that he did so was a family “legend.”²⁷ The *Bybee National Register Application* in its conclusion about the matter states that “All secondary documents reporting the involvement of Charles Garnier in designing the house date to the second half of the 20th century, and none give primary reference to the information. To date no primary or secondary sources have been found to corroborate that Garnier, nor any other architect, designed the house.”²⁸ This is partly wrong in that there is a newspaper story on page 28 of the *Indianapolis Sunday Star* for July 17, 1932 that states that Garnier is the man from which “...the plans might have come.” That clearly puts the family tradition much earlier than the “second half of the 20th Century.” The same newspaper story just quoted gives the intriguing statement that “Peter, who planned this house for his parents and who was a pioneer in the use of stone for commercial buildings...” There it would remain except for the tantalizing letter received by Nancy E. Jonas, the current owner of the house, in 1994. It was from Jacques-Francois Piquet and claimed “As leader member of a team of scholars, I am presently gathering documents in view of writing an essay on the French architect Charles Garnier. In that respect, I would be most grateful if you could send me information and photographs...on Matthews Mansion as part of the essay will be dedicated

²⁵ The *Bybee National Register Application* on p. 24 definitely states that it was “Originally known as ‘Graymont’” but the *Genealogy* (p. 277) credits that appellation to Dr. J. Edwin Culbertson. He was the I.U. professor who bought the house in 1955.

²⁶ *Bybee, Ibid*, p. 24.

²⁷ *Genealogy, op. cit.*, p. 276.

²⁸ *Bybee, op. cit.*, n. 23, p. 24.

on Garnier's work abroad."²⁹ Obviously the folks across the Atlantic thought there was a good chance that Garnier had designed the house although we don't know how they arrived at that opinion. It is one thing if that knowledge originated in Europe and quite another if somehow the American tradition of the house's designer had been exported. Ms. Jonas responded appropriately to the letter and heard nothing back. She has subsequently tried to contact Piquet to no avail. As recently as this month she wrote a library in Paris and received a response indicating no information about the mansion in a catalog of buildings designed by Garnier. With the above in mind the decision on whether or not Charles Garnier designed the Matthews Mansion must remain the Scottish verdict "not proven."

On May 27, 1883 John Matthews died. He was seventy-seven years old. He and Mary Ann, who survived him, had twelve children of whom nine had survived to adulthood and seven had out lived him. In addition he had two that survived from his earlier marriage to Bridget Dunn. It is interesting that no source but the *genealogy* mentions that earlier marriage. The one daughter from that union, Catherine Sophia, lived until 1909. She may have come to America for a time but, if so, she returned to England.³⁰ The one son, Alfred, remained with the family and lived in Ellettsville but he is rarely mentioned in the sources. The Matthews and Sons Stone Company was one of the biggest (and perhaps the biggest) in the district.³¹ John was a Baptist and a Democrat although during the Civil War he would definitely have been considered a Union Democrat. By almost any criteria, the illiterate English stonecutter had been most successful in his adopted country.

²⁹ Letter from Jacques-Francois Piquet to M. Curator of Matthews Mansion dated February 22, 1994, in possession of Nancy E. Jonas, the current owner of the house. She kindly provided a copy to the author.

³⁰ See note 39 on page 32. The same letter states that Catherine came to the United States but only stayed a few years before returning to England.

³¹ Batchelor, *op. cit.*, p. 13, gives an indication of how the business compared to others in 1864. He writes, "The first steam sawing plant in the Indiana stone district was installed by Watts and Biddle of Pennsylvania at their quarry near Stinesville in 1855...Three other firms established gang saw mills before 1870: John Matthews, Ellettsville, four gangs, 1864; Perry Brothers, Ellettsville, 4 gangs, 1866; and Nathan Hall and Davis Harrison, Bedford, six gangs, 1866."



Figure 5 This view by the author is looking northeast.



Figure 6 This view by the author is looking west at the east face or rear of the house.



Figure 7 This view by the author is looking directly east at the west face or front of the house.



Figure 8 This view by the author shows the carving of the faces of some children.



Figure 9 Enlargement of left pair in Figure 8.



Figure 10 Enlargement of right pair in Figure 8.

The cemetery for the Matthews family is the Presbyterian Cemetery located just north of Ellettsville on the west side of Highway 46 where it divides into one-way streets passing through the town. The monument is the largest one in the cemetery and the area enclosed around it for a family plot is quite large. The main monument is unique in my experience in having blank panels on its sides that over the years have been filled with information about the deaths and burial locations of sons who were buried elsewhere.

Shortly after the death of John Matthews, the company name was changed to Matthews Brothers and in 1909 after the death of William it became incorporated as the Matthews Brothers Company.³² The Articles of Incorporation in January, 1909 list three owners. They are Frederick Matthews, Frank E. Matthews (this would be Francis E. Matthews, a son of William Matthews) and Albert E. Matthews (who was a son of Peter Matthews.)³³ Thus by 1909 only one original brother was left and the torch was being passed to the next generation. By the time the company was sold in 1979 it was owned by the grandson of Frederick Matthews.

³² Clay W. Stuckey, "Origins of the Indiana Limestone Company" (unpublished manuscript, 1990), p. 56. Many of the stone companies that the different Matthews brothers were involved in ultimately became part of the merger that resulted in the creation of the Indiana Limestone Company. In this manuscript I consulted courthouse records to find out who organized the various stone companies. All references unless otherwise cited having to do with the ownership or organization of stone companies comes from this work.

³³ Monroe County, *Misc. Record* 6, p. 89. Albert is listed as living in Ellettsville, the other two in Bloomington.

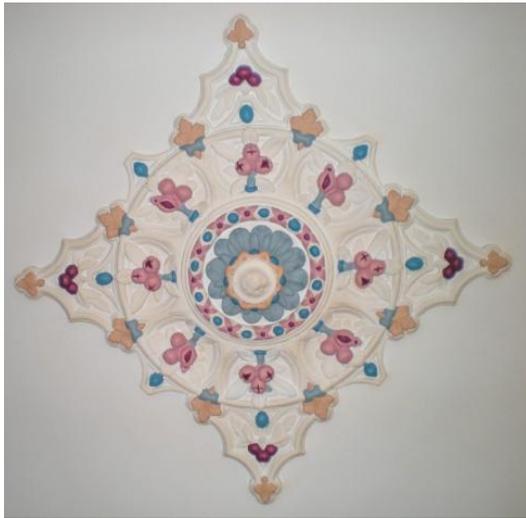


Figure 11 The top two are the ceiling plaster ornaments in the Matthews Mansion. The bottom two show how Nancy E. Jonas, the current owner of the house, has painted them. The top pictures were taken by Nancy and the bottom were done by Josephine Stuckey.



Figure 12 These are two surviving etched glass panels called “flash glass.” The top one is in the transom over the back door of the house and the bottom one is an interior transom above the door to a second floor bedroom. Both pictures were taken by Josephine Stuckey.

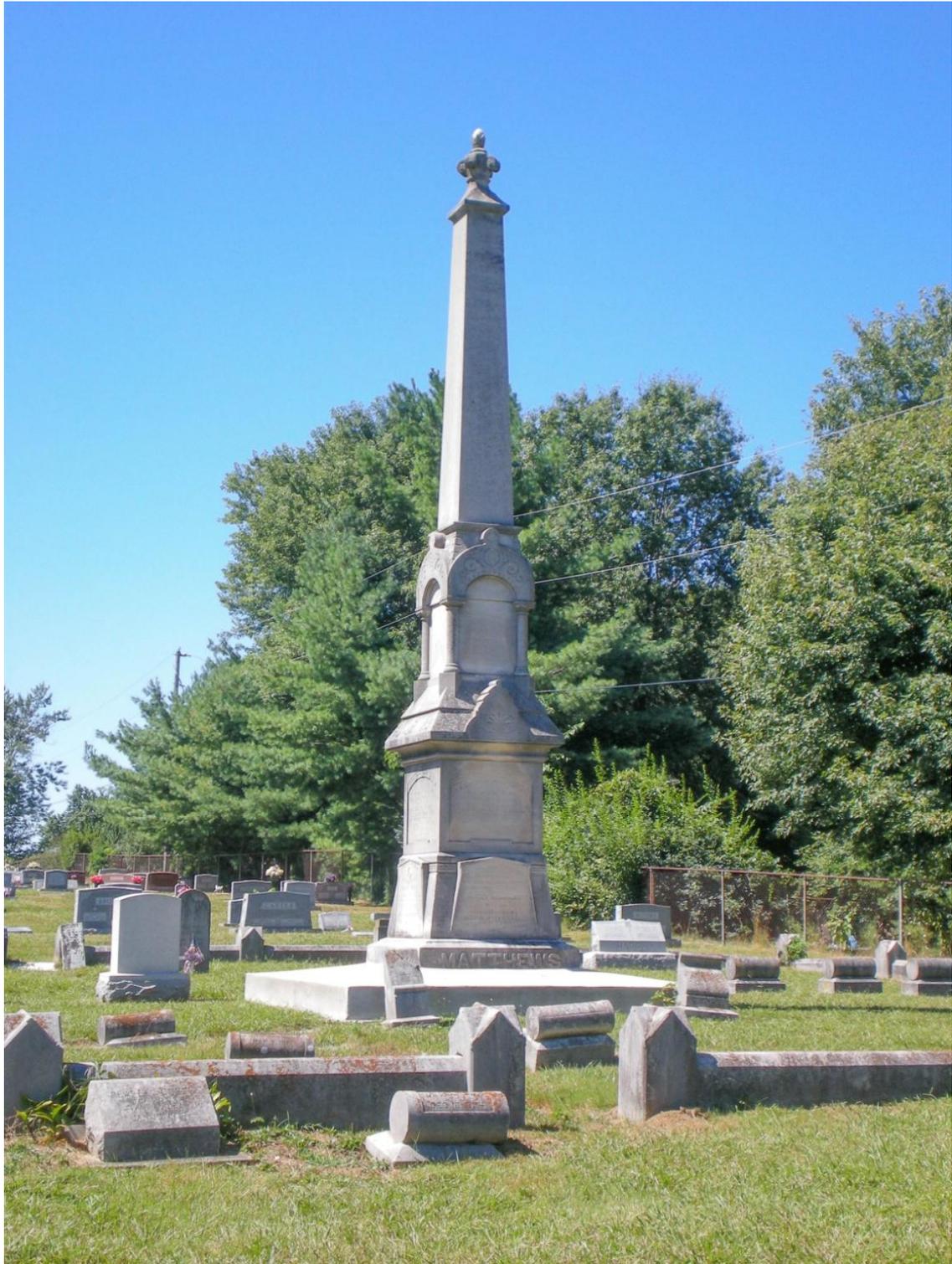


Figure 13 This view by the author is looking slightly northwest at the Matthews monument in the Presbyterian Cemetery on the North side of Ellettsville, Indiana.



Figure 14 This view by the author is looking slightly northeast and shows the large area for the Matthews family outlined by the low stone fence.



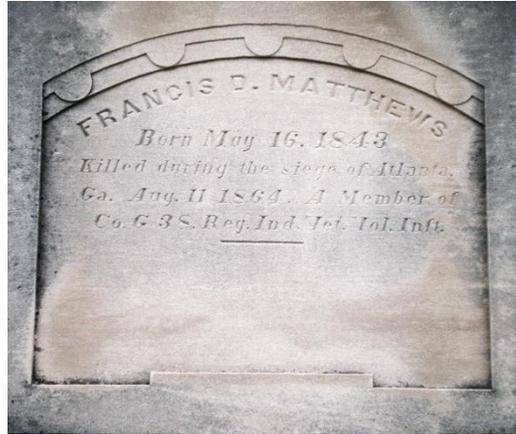
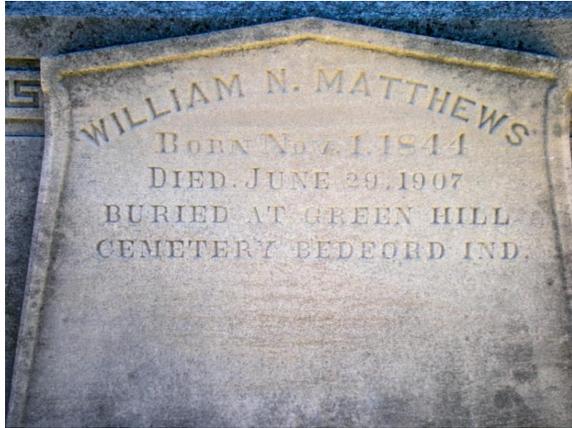


Figure 15 These four views by the author show some of the panels on the main monument. Note that William N. was buried elsewhere.

The Mill

Figure 16 This is an early picture of work in the Matthews quarry. It was provided by the late John Patton from the Geological Survey at IU. It was untitled but the same picture shows up in the Matthews Brothers Centennial Edition of *The Journal* (Ellettsville) for December 26, 1962 and appears there among many other correctly labeled early Matthews pictures. That hardly makes the identification rock solid, or more appropriately, limestone solid, but it is a good circumstantial case. It is a poor photograph but captures what a very early quarry would look like.





Figure 17 This photograph was scanned from the *Indiana Limestone Handbook*, 20th Edition, 1998, p. 4. It is only identified as "Quarry scene in Indiana Limestone district, circa 1865." The Matthews Centennial Edition of *The Journal* (Ellettsville) for December 26, 1962 has this picture identifying quite correctly John Matthews on the right in the white shirt and open vest and Peter Matthews on the farthest left with his hat in his left hand.



Figure 18 This picture is reversed. It is a mirror image of the actual scene. It appeared that way on page 3 of the December 26, 1962 Matthews Bicentennial Edition of *The Journal* (Ellettsville). It also appears reversed on page 13 of *A Short History of Indiana Limestone* by Bill McDonald, 1995. The correct way of viewing this is in the following picture.

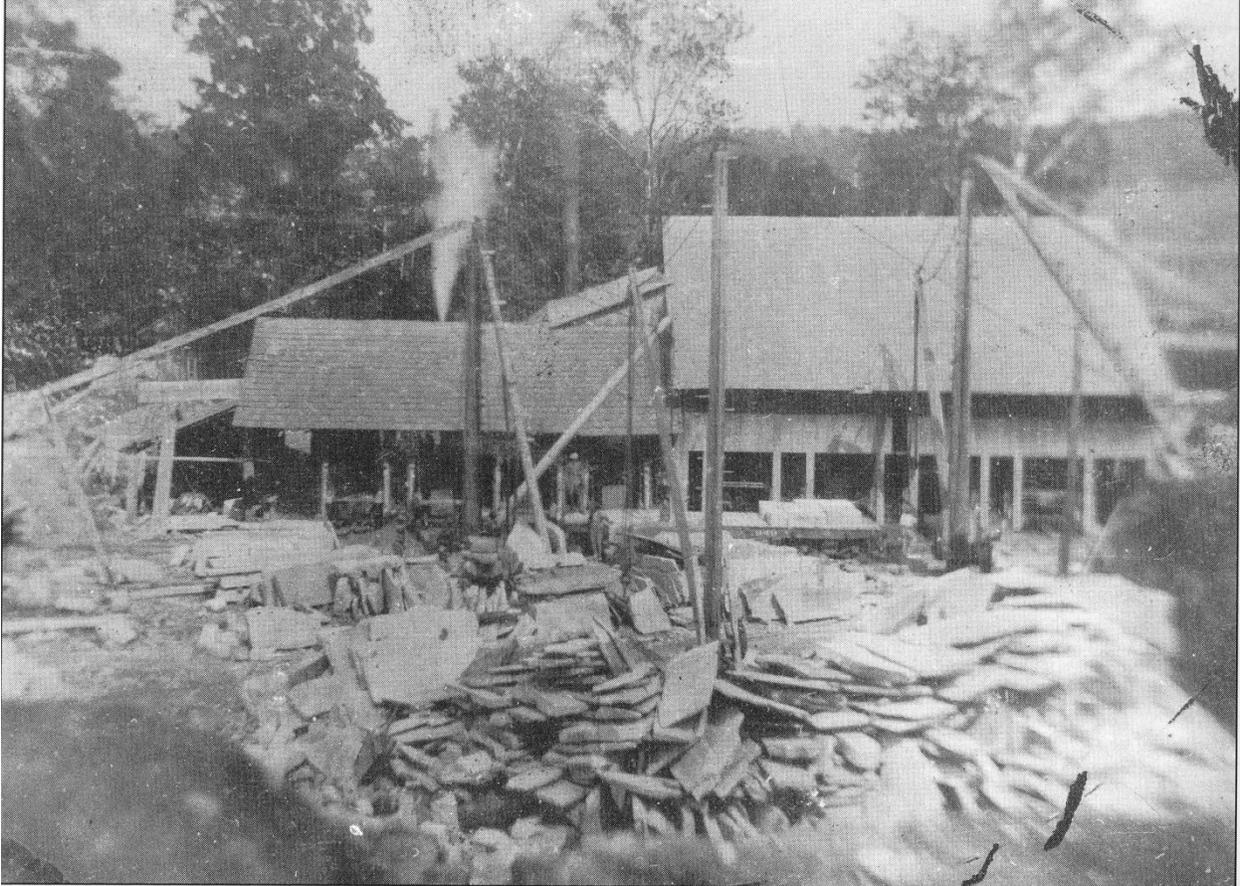


Figure 19 This view is looking at the west side of the Matthews mill. Compare it to Figures 20 and 21. The picture is undated.



Figure 20 This is from the same view as Figure 21. We know from the building to the far left that it is after 1874. That building has "AD 1874" carved on its face. See page 24. This is a Tom Kephire photograph from the website *Bygone Days Along the Monon*.

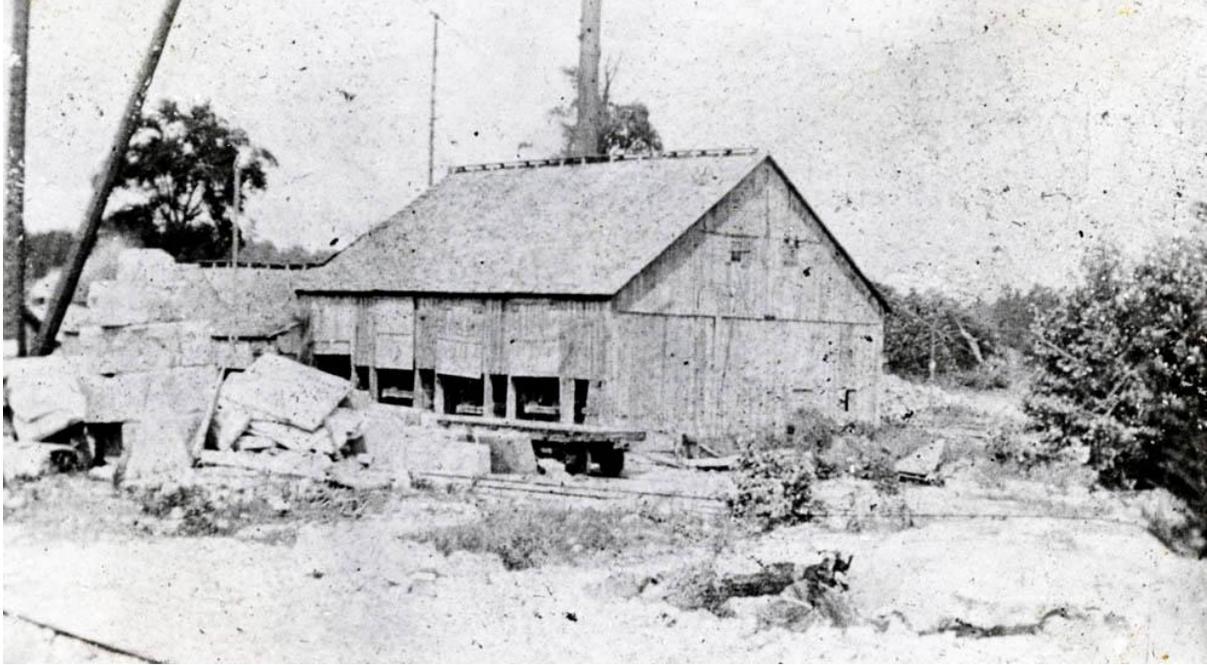


Figure 21 This is difficult to date. The building appears to be the same and there is a pole with steps affixed to it just to the left of the top of the roof. It terminates at a wire and is just like that seen in Figure 23 although Figure 23 comes later as more building has been added. We cannot see the "1874" building but it could be obscured by the stone pile or out of camera range to the left. This, too, is a Tom Kepshire website photograph.



Figure 22 This is the parking garage for the mill during the 1920s. It is from the Tom Kepshire website. This is typical of limestone mills of the era to provide garages for employees because of the dusty work environment. This view is looking east and the location of the garage is shown in Figure 34.

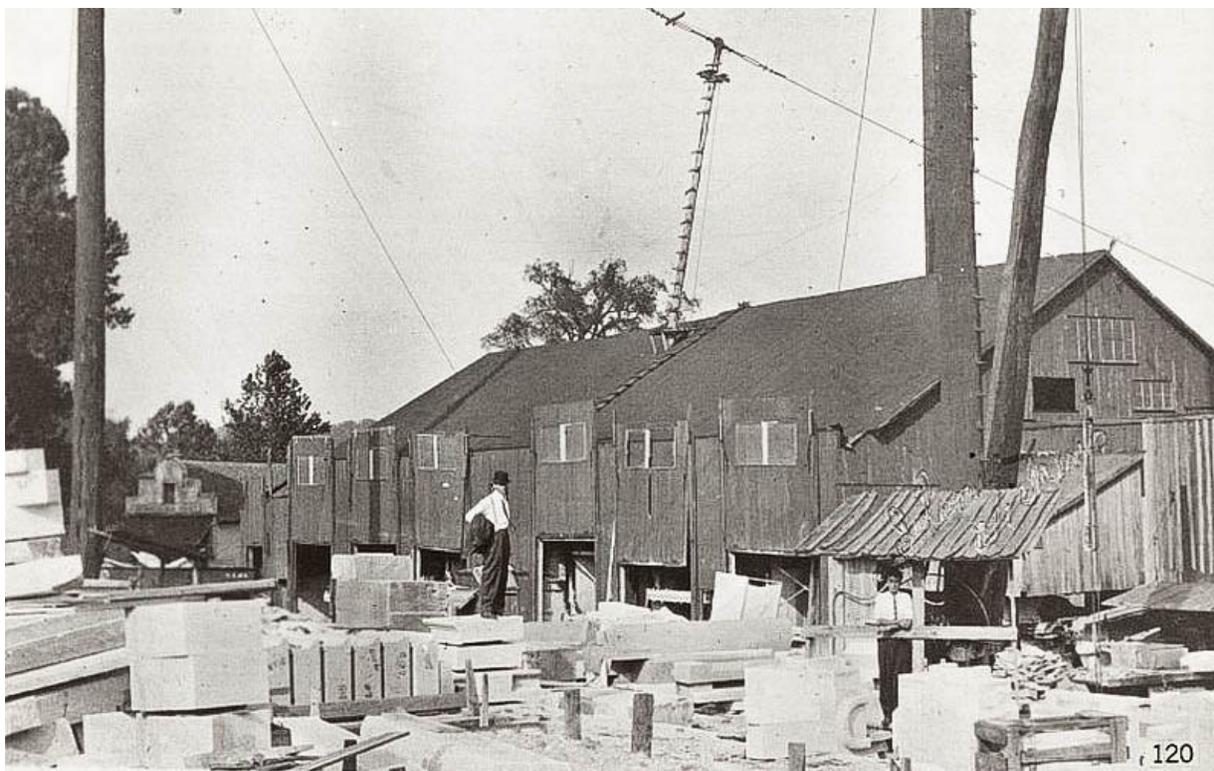


Figure 23 This undated picture is from the website *Bygone Days Along the Monon* by Tom Kepshire and shows the building pictured in Figures 27 & 28 on the far left. That building has the date 1874 carved on its front. By comparison with the Sanborn maps it can be seen that this photograph is showing the west side of the large building and the picture is looking from west to east. The *Bybee National Register Application* dates this as about 1885. *The Journal* (Ellettsville) of Dec. 26, 1962, p. 8, identifies the man on the left as John Wickens and the man on the right as “thought to be Harry Gale.” See the following picture for comment. It dates the picture as between 1910 and 1914 and “shortly before the new concrete structure was built.” I think that date is much too late.

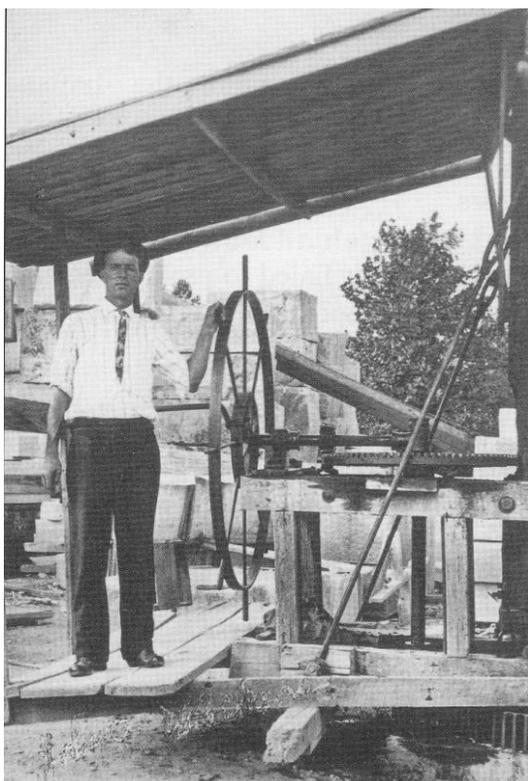


Figure 24 “The late John Wickens pictured at a bull wheel about 1911, the same year that Harding and Cogswell was starting into business next door” was the caption on this picture from the December 26, 1962 edition of *The Journal* (Ellettsville). This fellow looks remarkably like the man to the right in Figure 23 and thus the identities indicated in that picture are probably reversed. A bull wheel was used to turn the vertical part of a derrick. According to Bill McDonald, *op. cit.*, p. 18, it was rarely used after 1910. According to the *Encyclopedia of Word and Phrase Origins* by Robert Hendrickson, Facts on File, 1997, p. 199, the derrick was named after the English executioner Godfrey Derrick who hanged his charges from a similar device. There is no charge for this little gem. You’re welcome.

The following shows the growth of the mill in Ellettsville as reflected in the Sanborn Fire

Insurance Maps along with some more historic photographs:

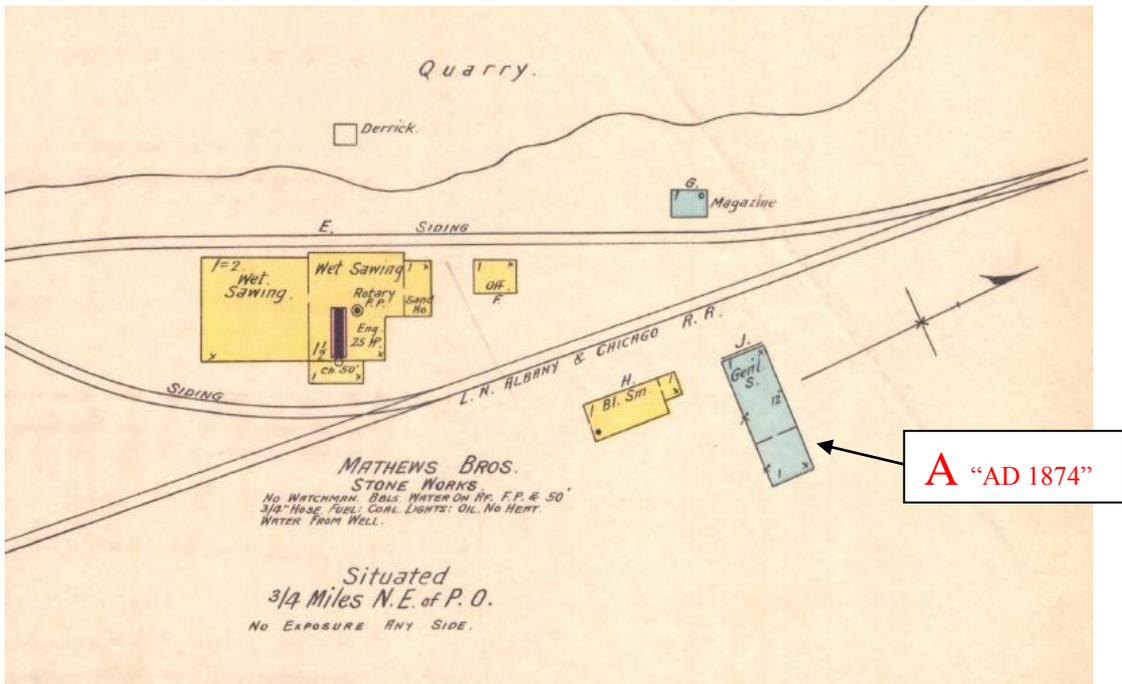


Figure 25 This is from page 2 of the 1895 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for Ellettsville. The red notation is added.

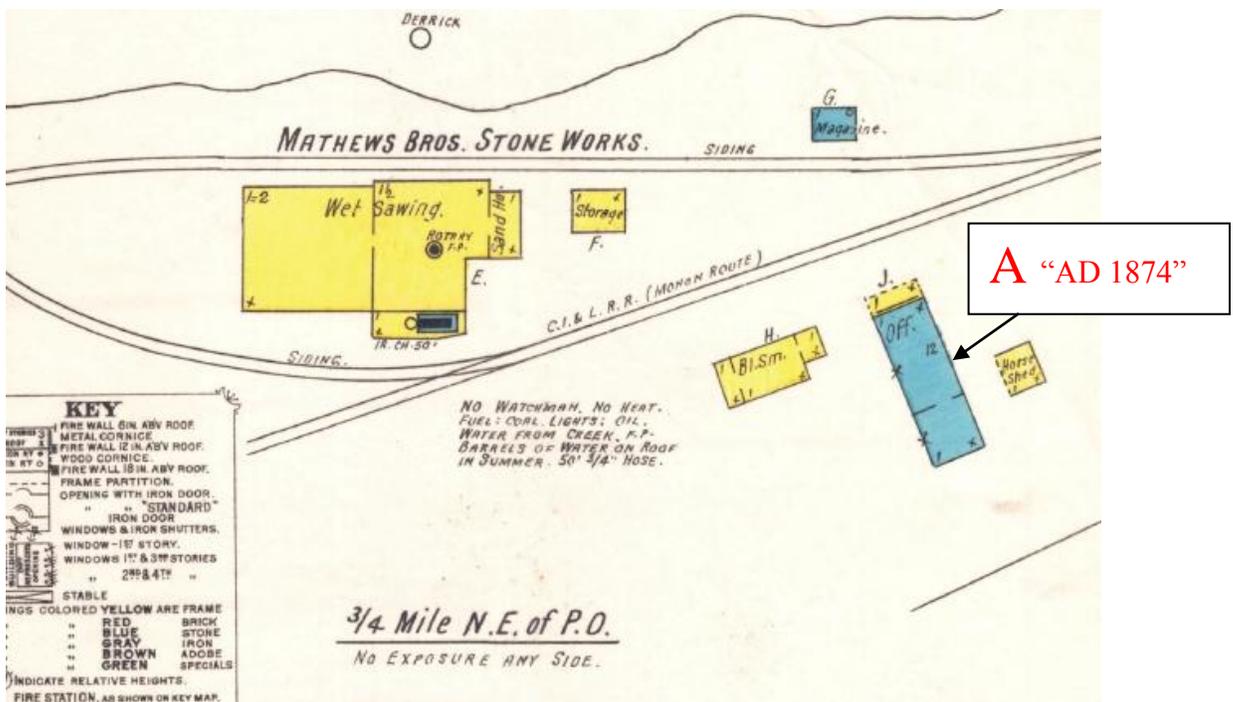


Figure 26 This is from page 3 of the 1910 Fire Insurance Map for Ellettsville. The 1902 map had shown no change. The red notation is added. These two maps may be found at <http://www.libraries.iub.edu/index.php?pageid=1002181>.



Figure 27 This building was originally the company store and was built in 1874. The picture was taken by the author in 1989.



Figure 28 This picture was taken by the author in 2013.



Figure 29 "AD 1874" on face of building.



Figure 30 This is another website Tom Kepshire picture and shows a greatly expanded mill. The view has shifted from before and now we are looking almost due north. The "1874" building is on the right side just to the right of the railroad tracks. The *Bybee National Register Application* dates this as about 1909.



Figure 31 This is a close-up of Figure 30. It is clearly from the same negative. The *Bybee National Register Application* (p. 5) states that this long mill building was built in 1909.

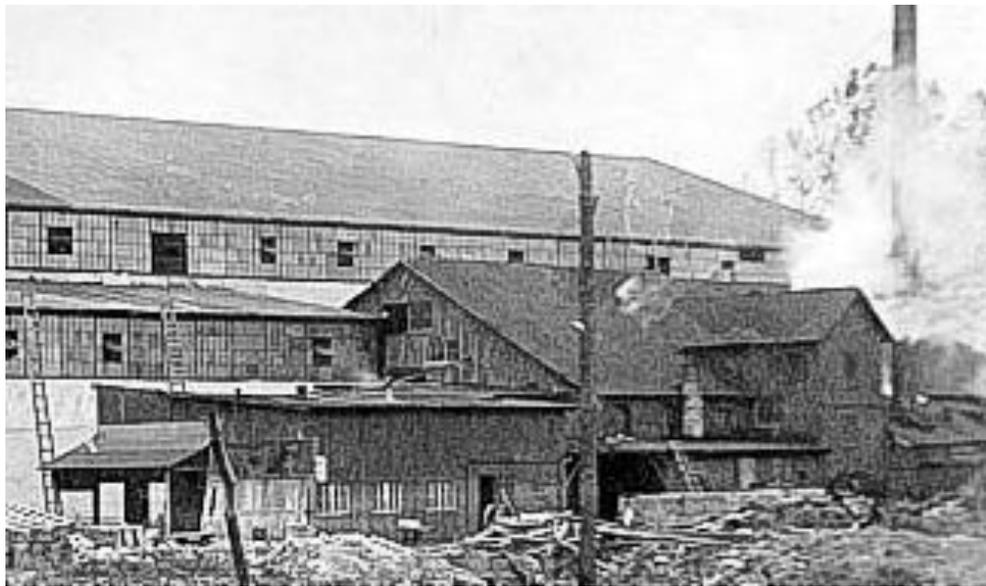


Figure 32 This is an enlarged section of Figure 31 and shows the older part of the mill which was the ultimate development of that shown in Figures 19-21 and 23.



Figure 33 This Google picture was kindly provided by Ron Marquardt. The diagonal yellow line shows the path of the now gone Monon Railroad. The Yellow arrow in the top center shows the "1874" building and the red arrow in the upper right is the Matthews Mansion.

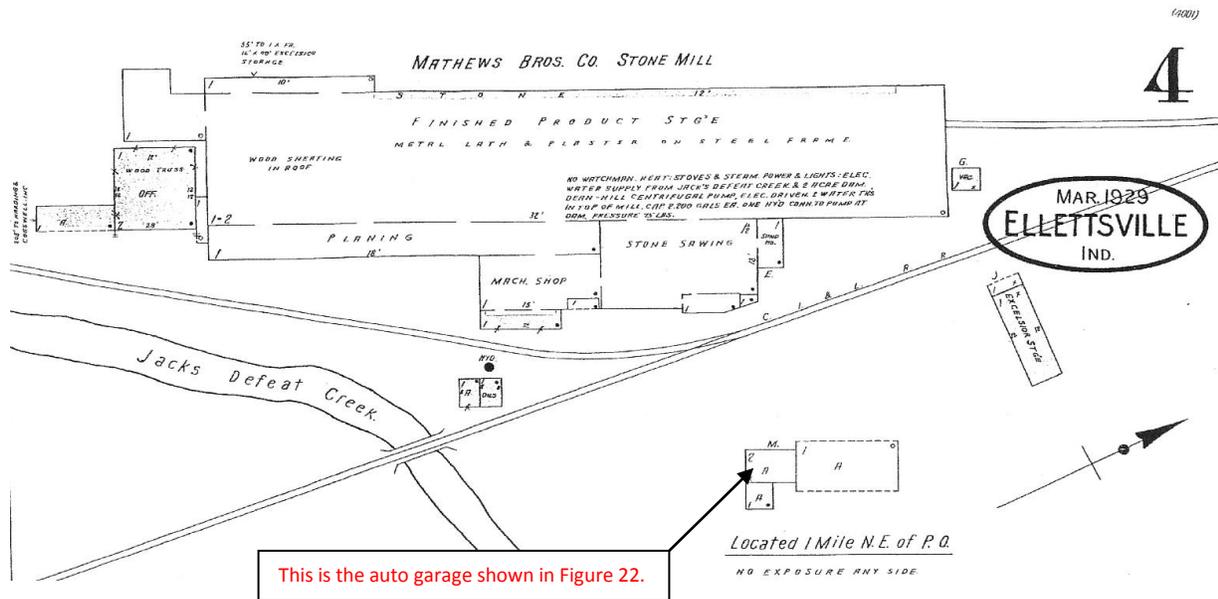


Figure 34 This is from page 4 of the 1929 edition of the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Ellettsville. This is from the author's collection. The garage building indicated above is shown in Figure 22.



Figure 35 This shows the drafting building before the administration building was built above the garage. It was this building that was damaged by fire in 1977. The picture is from the Monroe County Historical Society, Inc./Monroe History Center.

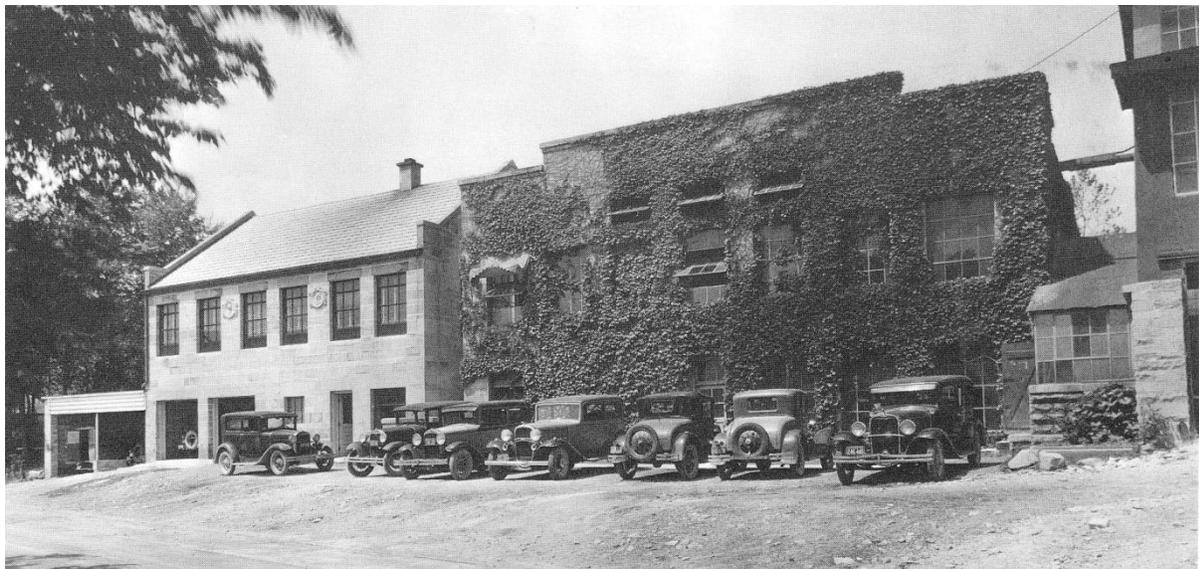


Figure 36 This is from page 22 of the *Monroe County Interim Report, (1989)*, published by Bloomington Restorations. It describes these buildings as follows: "Two adjoining stone-faced office buildings built in the 1920s...One of these, with the

date of construction, 1920, engraved on the façade, was built along the lines of a traditional functional/commercial building. The other one, to the south, was designed with a gable roof and parapeted gable ends, recalling the Tudor Revival style fashionable in house designs of that era.”



Figure 37 This is almost the same scene as Figure 36 and was taken by the author in 2013. The portrait ovals seen in the left building are shown below.

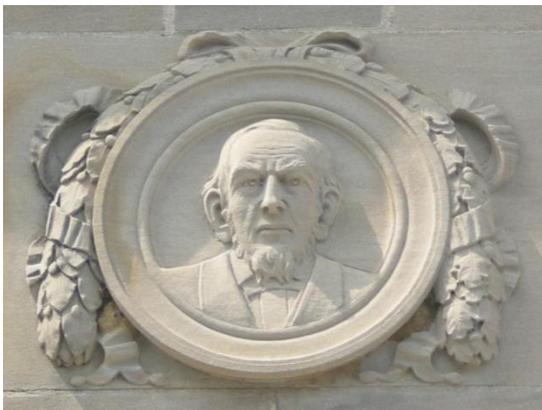


Figure 38 John Matthews.

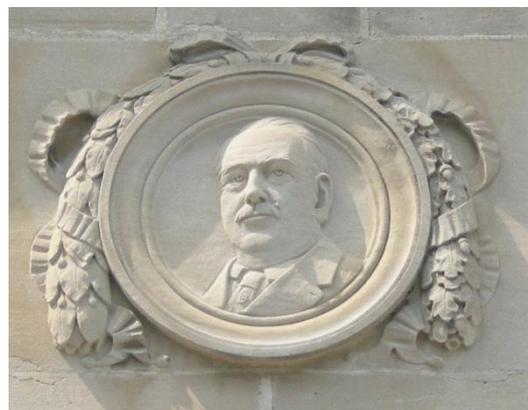


Figure 39 Frederick Matthews.

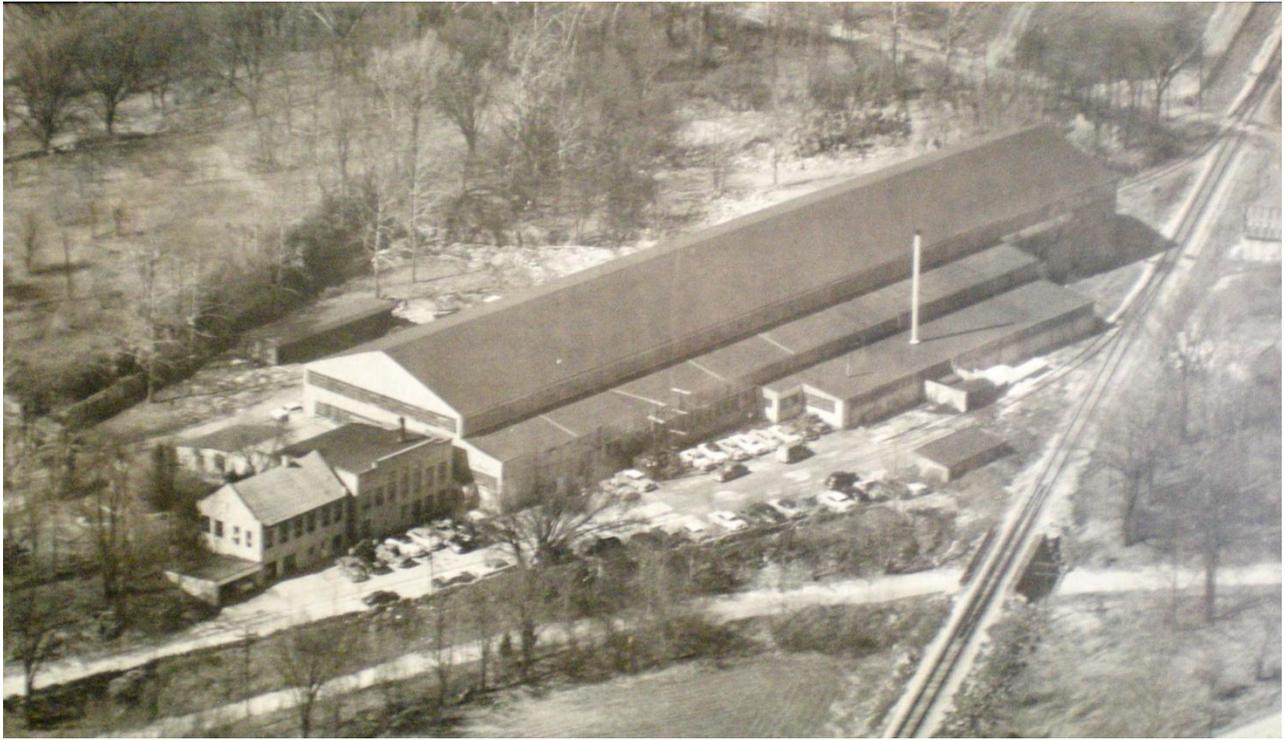


Figure 40 This undated aerial view shows the Matthews Brothers Stone Company. It later became Bybee Stone Company and this photograph adorns its outer office. The “1874” building is partly shown to the right of the tracks in the upper right.



Figure 41 The Bybee Stone Company as photographed by the author in 1989

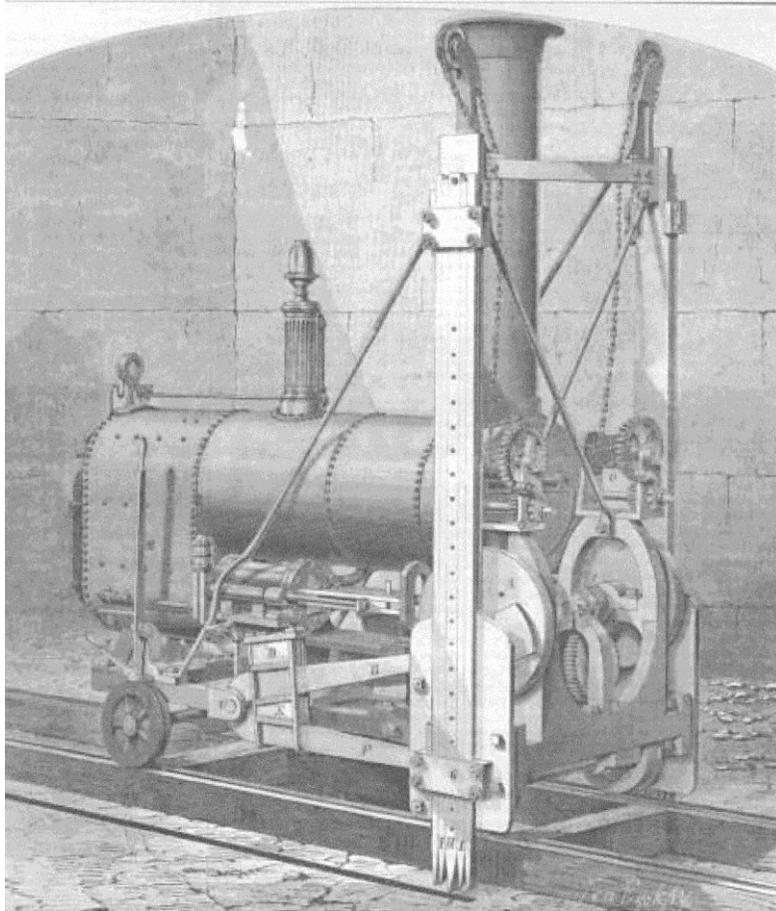


Figure 42 This is a Wardwell channeling machine that was first used in the limestone district by John Matthews. This picture is from *Scientific American*, Vol. XXVIII, No., 13 New York, March 29, 1873, p. 191 as shown on the website <http://quarriesandbeyond.org/>.

What follows are brief biographies of the Mathews brothers. Lest anyone claim that because I leave out the distaff side I am a male chauvinist I can only plead that this paper is a look at the Matthews and Sons Stone Company and not the Matthews and Sons and Daughters Stone Company. The following is a list of the sons in a rough order based on their influence on the stone business. It starts with the least influential and ends with Frederick and William who were comparably important. I will deal with Frederick last only because he died last.

Alfred Matthews 1829-1891

Alfred is the half-brother to the more famous Matthews brothers. He was born in Bedford, England and his mother was Bridget Dunn³⁴. She was the first wife of John Matthews



Figure 43 This is looking west at the Matthews family monument in the Presbyterian Cemetery in Ellettsville. Mary Ann and John are also acknowledged on the large monument. Alfred is in the lower right.



Figure 44 "A Matthews" Presumably this is Alfred. There is no other information on the stone.



Figure 45 Peter and his widow are acknowledged on the large family monument but these were obviously added later.

and we don't know how the marriage ended. She most likely died. He came over from England on the same boat with his step-mother Mary Ann and the rest of the family. The *Genealogy* (p 9)

³⁴ The *Bybee National Register Application* (p. 29) has the name Bridget Downs. It also definitively states (p. 30) that John was widowed. The *Genealogy* never specifically says how the marriage ended.

lists only the years of his birth and death but not the day or month of either. It includes no information for the location of burial or of a marriage and says he died in Ellettsville. I looked in the death records in the span that included 1891 and found no record of his death. He is not listed as having an obituary in any local paper. According to a note on page 9 of the *Genealogy* the census for 1870 reported that “He was living with his half-brother Frederick and family.” Frederick would have been 11 years old in 1870. My check with the census for 1860 does not show him living with his father and step-mother but the census for 1880 has him living with his half-brother Peter and employed as a stone Sawyer.³⁵ At his death in 1891 he was possibly living with another relative. The 1880 record has a check in the “widowed” column. He may have been married at one time but the *Genealogy* says no and there is no record of such a marriage in Monroe County.³⁶ None of the business records showing ownership in any stone companies for the brothers lists his name. It is hardly fair to draw any conclusions from such scant evidence but one might envision a fellow without a great deal of ambition who was content to remain a working man all his life. His father John left him \$500 in his will.³⁷ Perhaps he might have been a little slow and depended more on the loving care of his family than others.³⁸ We simply don’t know but obviously he was not disowned by the family and that reflects credit on him and them.

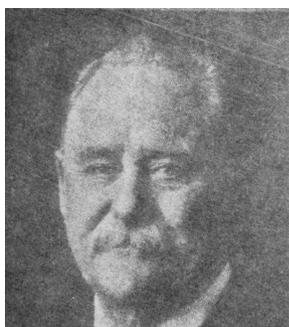


Figure 46 James L. Matthews

James L. Matthews 1851-1928

It would be tempting to refer facetiously to James as the black sheep of the family but Biblical lamb would be more appropriate. While it seems that the sons of John Matthews were born with limestone



Figure 47 James L. Matthews

dust in their veins, James was born with scripture. He became a preacher.³⁹ He was graduated from Franklin College with an A.B. Degree in 1879, and A.M. Degree in 1882 and a B.D. Degree from Union Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois. At Franklin College he was a member of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity. He was associated with various Baptist churches in Indiana, living in Indiana and Illinois until at least 1890 and by 1899 he was living in Del Ray, California. He married Rachel Eady Mugg on the Fourth of July, 1881, and when he died in 1928 he was living in Fowler, California. From 1899 until his death he was pastor of a church in

³⁵ I am indebted to Joyce Shepherd for her invaluable help in plumbing census records as with so many other things she has done for me.

³⁶ I searched the *Monroe County Marriage Records: 1818-1881* and the *WPA 1940 Index of Marriage Records*.

³⁷ *Will of John Matthews, of Monroe County, Indiana*. This was included in the abstract for the Matthews home that was provided by Nancy E. Jonas who currently lives there. John signed with his mark.

³⁸ *Genealogy*, op. cit., p. 10. “A letter from Ed Wickens of Ellettsville said...Alfred...lived in his [Ed Wickens] home in Ellettsville and died there in 1891. Ed Wickens’ grandmother was Susan Drake Wickens, Wife of Wm. and Sister of Mary Ann Drake Matthews.” It would be interesting to know if this letter is the source for the 1891 death for Alfred. The 1910 census lists an Edward Wickins [sic] in Ellettsville who was 24 years old and born in England. If this is the same man he would have been about 5 years old in 1891.

³⁹ *BloomingtonTelephone*, August 11, 1928, p. 1 has an obituary.

Fresno, California. He was born in Cincinnati, Ohio shortly after the family arrived from England and so was the first native born child of John and Mary Ann. This is all we know about him.⁴⁰

Francis Drake Matthews 1843-1864



Figure 48 Francis Drake Matthews

The only readily available information about Francis comes from the ever helpful *Genealogy*. He was born in London, never married, and enlisted in Company G, 38th Regiment of Indiana Volunteers. He was wounded at Nashville on September 9, 1863 and was discharged in December. He re-enlisted as a Veteran Volunteer in the 38th Regiment on December 20, 1863 at Rossville, Georgia, for three years. The genealogy reports that he was a musician in the army and that his father had not wanted him to serve. He was killed near Atlanta on August 11, 1864 and is buried in grave No. 9870, Section “J”. The monument for him was carved in Ellettsville and then taken by his brothers William and Frederick in 1870 to the Marietta National Cemetery.⁴¹

Brad Quinlin, the local historian of the Marietta National Cemetery has researched in the national archives and reports that Francis was “Buried 2 and one half miles north of Mason and Turners ferry rd. in N.W. corner of old field on the widow Elliott’s land...That was the field hospital. 22 graves were placed in that area and taken to the Marietta National Cemetery on September 18, 1866. Records from Chaplin Van Horne.”⁴²

There is a poignant letter from Nathon R. Matson who was both a friend and a relative of Francis to John Matthews. It reads

Mr. Matthews

Dear Friend:

I take this opportunity of answering your welcome letter which I received in due time. Frank was buried without a coffin, we were in the ditches at the time and could not get anything made to put him in, the grave was dug about four feet and a half deep, he was wrapped in his gum blanket and a board covered over the vault of the grave.

⁴⁰ *Genealogy*, p. 12. The first photograph is from *Quarries and Mills*, Vol. I, No. I (May, 1929), p. 9, and the second is from the Monroe County History Center. Other information is from the *Loose-leaf Genealogy* p. 46, and *Genealogy* p. 146.

⁴¹ *Genealogy*, pp. 49-50. Frederick was born in 1859. There is a possibility that another brother actually went instead or in addition. It is hard to believe that Frederick would have been of the age to be much physical help with a heavy stone.

⁴² Email from Brad Quinlin at 21stohio@charter.net, October 24, 2013.

If you come to the conclusion to have him taken up we will assist you all in our power, his grave is marked with a board, his name, company and regiment and date of death. I put every thing that he had in his knapsack, in a box and sent the box by Wm. Everman. I suppose you will have them by the time you receive this letter. I sent his photograph by Joe Stimson, I suppose you have them by this time.

When we started on the campaign we all sent our overcoats and blankets. I think Frank sent his overcoat and blanket back at the same time. They have not come up yet, when they do I will get them and send them to you. There was a small box come to the Reg. addressed to Frank, Lt. Evans opened it, he says he will take care of them till you let him know what to do with them. I believe I have given you all the particulars, I will close with my respects to all the family.

I remain your friend
Nathan R. Matson
Co. "G" 38th Ind. Vol.
Write soon,⁴³

Peter Thomas Matthews 1841-1884

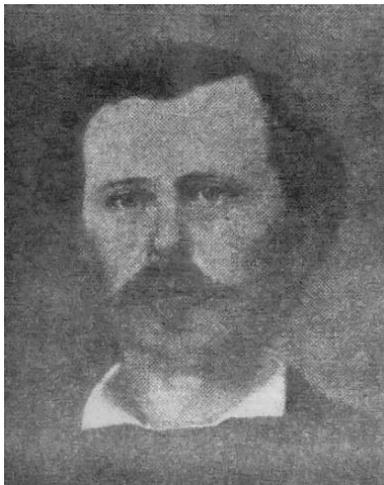


Figure 49 Peter Thomas Matthews

Peter Thomas Matthews was born in Lambeth, Surrey, England and was the oldest surviving child of John and his second wife Mary Ann. He enlisted in the Union Army on July 29, 1861 and was discharged on August 9, 1862. He was a drummer in the 19th Indiana Regimental Band. Most of the band was



Figure 50 Peter Thomas Matthews

captured at the First Battle of Bull Run but Peter escaped.⁴⁴ The *Bybee National Register Application* reports that "By 1876, Matthews and Sons was also the proprietor of the Ellettsville Steam Stone Works, with son, Peter T. Matthews, as senior proprietor."⁴⁵ He married Sarah Emma Stimson on October 30, 1866 and they had four children that survived to adulthood.

⁴³ Dorothy Isabella Matson Vawter, *op. cit.*, p. 10.

⁴⁴ *Genealogy*, p. 16, Charles Blanchard, *op. cit.*, p. 634 adds the fact that he was a drummer and writes that he was born in London. He also gives the story of his escape but it is not clear that he escaped capture or escaped from captivity. It also says that he served for the rest of the war. Blanchard also gives the birth year wrong writing that it was in 1840. I trust the genealogy. His obituary in the May 7, 1884 issue of the *Republican Progress* says he enlisted as a drummer.

⁴⁵ *Bybee National Register Application*, p. 23. There is an advertisement in the *Bloomington Courier* on March 30, 1876 for "Ellettsville Steam Stone Works John Matthews and Son...Sawed and Rough Building Stone...Caps, Sills,

Peter was killed in a dynamite explosion on April 29, 1884 in Ellettsville.⁴⁶ That blast killed at least three and possibly two others and injured several including his brother Frederick Matthews. It seems they had discontinued using dynamite in the quarry and left-over dynamite and caps had been stored in an iron kettle or “dye-pot” in the smoke house near the old house where John had lived before building his Mansion. Another family was then living in that house and it caught fire because of a defective flue. The fire spread to the smoke house and as the men fought the fire the explosion of the dynamite rendered the iron pot into fragments of shrapnel. His widow, Sarah, married a Rev. Elrod who was a Methodist. Later when the brothers Fred and William (and others) organized the Perry, Matthews, and Buskirk Stone Company she was included as one of the organizers.⁴⁷



Figure 51 William Norbert Matthews

William Norbert Matthews 1844-1907

William Norbert Matthews (remember he was christened Norbert William but chose to reverse those names all of his life) was born in Westminster, England on November 1, 1844. The genealogy states that he took an Oath of Allegiance to the United States on October 6, 1876 as part of a naturalization process in becoming a United States Citizen.⁴⁸ It would be interesting to know if he anticipated a political future when he made this decision. He attended Wabash College although the *Genealogy* does not say whether he graduated or not. Thus he, his brother James, and their sister Phoebe are the only three of the family that we know attended college⁴⁹. The United States Federal Census for 1860 states that all of the John Matthews children had attended school within the past year except for Phoebe, age 4, and Frederick, age 1. We can assume that John and Mary placed an important role for education in the rearing of their family. He enlisted in the Union Army and served in Company G of

Columns, Ashlar, Flaging, Grossing, Curbing, Blocks, Bases, Etc.” Another advertisement in an unknown paper for 1883 has the John Matthews and Sons Ellettsville Steam Stone Works. Along with these clippings in the Monroe County History Center there is a reproduction of early company stationery which has a letter-head “Matthews Brothers Ellettsville Steam Stone Works, Ellettsville, Indiana, 190_.” The company did some if not all its cut stone work under the name of Ellettsville Steam Stone Works and did so from quite an early date.

⁴⁶ The *Republican Progress* of May 7, 1884 gives all the gory details of the horrific tragedy. In a scrap-book supplied by Nancy E. Jonas is a lengthy article on the incident from the *Bloomington Courier* noted by someone as April 29, 1884. Since Peter lingered for a day and died on the 29th as was reported in the article, the date must be a little later.

⁴⁷ Clay W. Stuckey, *op. cit.*, p. 56.

⁴⁸ *Genealogy*, p. 52.

⁴⁹ Dorothy Vawter, *op. cit.*, p. 11 writes that “Phoebe left her studies at Franklin College to return to Ellettsville and help her mother raise Ann’s youngest child.” There may have been other sisters who attended college.

the 115th Regiment of Indiana Volunteers.⁵⁰ It is not known for how long he served, or whether he too was a musician. He married Adaline Smith Johnson on November 8, 1869 and they had



Figure 52 Grave number 9870 in section J of the Marietta National Cemetery is the only non government issue tombstone in that section. It was made for Francis by his family. These three photographs are by the author.



Figure 53



Figure 54

⁵⁰ Most biographical information about William comes from the Genealogy and from his obituary that appeared in the Bedford Weekly Mail of July 5, 1907, p. 4. The photograph is from a poor copy in the files of the Monroe County Historical Society, Inc./Monroe County History Center.

nine children, all of whom survived to adulthood.

After they married, William and Adaline moved to Salem, Indiana where they lived awhile before moving back to Ellettsville. In 1888 they moved to Bedford in anticipation of the formation of the Perry, Matthews, and Buskirk Stone Company that occurred in 1889. That quarry, one of the major ones in the district, was located in Lawrence County just north of Oolitic and extending north to Hopkins Cemetery and to the east of the old state highway 37. According to his obituary his association with that company would last until 1901 when it was sold to the Consolidated Stone Company. My research shows that in 1910 the Indiana Quarries Company acquired the P.M. & B. Stone Company.⁵¹ Besides the latter company, William was also involved in organizing the Brooks-Curtis Stone Company in 1902,⁵² and the Crescent Stone Company (along with Gilbert and Henry Perry and Frederick Matthews) in 1893.⁵³ William continued the family tradition of being a Baptist and like his brother Frederick, he was a Mason.⁵⁴ Both had been Worshipful Master of the Ellettsville Lodge No. 245.⁵⁵ The *Genealogy* reports that he was “Invited to become a 33rd Degree Mason, but died before the Conclave.” He

⁵¹ Clay W. Stuckey, *op. cit.*, p. 56. Here is a conundrum. I based my conclusion about the Indiana Quarries Company acquiring the P.M. & B. Stone Company in 1910 on a lengthy entry in the Lawrence County Deed Record 58, pp. 535-543 listing a great deal of land being conveyed from the latter to the former company. There is also an entry in the Deed Record 50, p. 325 where the P.M. & B. Company conveys land to the Southern Indiana Railway Co. in November of 1904. The P.M. & B. Company would seem to be in existence in 1904 and later in 1910. Joseph A. Batchelor, *op. cit.*, p. 149 has a lengthy footnote that I reproduce as follows: “In 1903, the P. M. and B. Stone Company, which had been purchased by the Monon Railway in December, 1897, for \$300,000, was sold to the Cleveland Stone Company for \$600,000. The Monon Railway retained its interest in the Consolidated Stone Company. John R. Walsh, owner of the Bedford Quarries Company and the Southern Indiana Railway Company, in order to meet the new competition, purchased the Ohio Quarries Company at Lorain, Ohio. The P. M. & B., the Bedford Quarries Company and the Consolidated Stone Company were at that time the three largest quarry firms in the Indiana district. In 1905, Mr. Walsh was convicted of violating the national banking laws and sentenced to the Federal penitentiary at Leavenworth. The Chicago Clearing House, in trying to straighten out the affairs of Walsh’s three Chicago banks, took over the Bedford Quarries Company in 1906. The stone company thus became separated in ownership and management from the Bedford Belt Railway and the Southern Indiana Railway Company. The latter was reorganized as the Chicago, Terre Haute, and Southeastern Railway Company. Whatever financial advantages had accrued to the stone company through the railway company’s ability to get, from other roads, favorable divisions of freight rates on stone thus vanished. The Cleveland Stone Company in 1910 purchased the Bedford Quarries Company and merged it with the P. M. & B., calling the new subsidiary the *Indiana Quarries Company*. To finance the transaction \$1,500,000 in 6 per cent bonds were issued of which \$392,000 worth were exchanged for outstanding bonds of the Bedford Quarries Company. In March, 1911, Walsh’s former associates bought the Consolidated Stone Company from the Monon Railway for \$375,000.” Batchelor had a long footnote and now I have a longer one. I don’t quite understand it all and I am not sure he did but he understood it better than I do. The important point for us is that we are not quite sure when the Matthews ceased having any connection with the P. M. & B. Stone Company.

⁵² *Ibid.*, p. 7.

⁵³ *Ibid.*, p. 26

⁵⁴ *Abstract*, *op. cit.*, p. 19, shows the will of Frederick Matthews in which money was left to six different Baptist organizations.

⁵⁵ *The Ellettsville Story, 1837-1947*, reprint 2011, Ellettsville Sesquicentennial Association, *The Ellettsville Journal*, 2011. It may be found in the Indiana Room of the Monroe County Public Library under IND GR 977.2 IN M53.

continued the family association with the Democracy and from 1903 to 1905 he served as the Democratic State Senator representing Lawrence, Martin, and Orange Counties.

Members of the third generation of Matthews have not been dealt with in this paper but the death of Ralph Matthews, the 16 year old son of William and Adaline is interesting. He died on October 16, 1904 of complications from an injury suffered while playing a practice game of football at school.⁵⁶ In his local history Jim Guthrie wrote that “Football was played in Bedford and Mitchell schools at the turn of the century but was such a rough, grueling sport that a number of accidents and death of a player caused it to be dropped, and the game was not begun again for a half century.”⁵⁷ While he doesn’t say that the death of the Matthews boy was the incident that precipitated the banning of football, it is hard to believe otherwise.

William and his family lived at 1407 15th Street. This was on the northwest corner of 15th and N Streets. The house has not survived. They are buried at Green Hill Cemetery in the family plot on the very top of the hill. The monument is a gigantic obelisk that in its proportions and elegant simplicity is exceptionally beautiful.



Figure 55 The William Matthews family monument in Green Hill Cemetery, Bedford.

⁵⁶ *Daily Mail*, Oct. 17, 1904, p. 4.

⁵⁷ James M. Guthrie, *A Quarter Century in Lawrence County, Indiana, 1917-1941*, (Bedford, Indiana, 1984), p. 346.

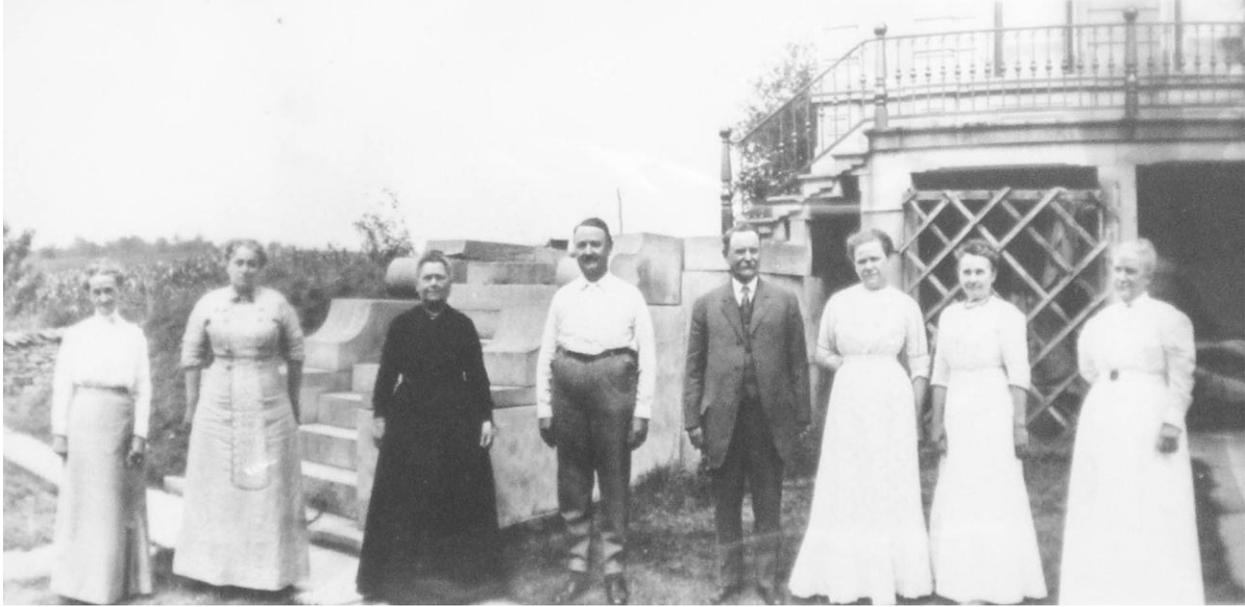


Figure 56 This undated picture was taken prior to Mary Ann's death in 1894 and shows to her left Frederick and James. Alfred died in Ellettsville in 1891 and so the picture may be between those dates or perhaps Alfred didn't attend family gatherings. William had moved to Bedford in 1888. The picture was provided by Nancy E. Jonas.



Figure 57 Page 4 of the 1910 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Bedford, Indiana. The red A marks the home of William Matthews. It has not survived. See Figure 25 for the source of this map.

Frederick Matthews 1859-1932



Figure 58 Frederick Matthews

Frederick was the last surviving son of John and Mary Ann Matthews. Of all their children, only Phoebe would outlast Frederick, dying at age 92 in 1948. He married Nettie May Moore on July 23, 1879 and they had two children who lived to adulthood. The *Genealogy* states that “When William Norbert Matthews was elected to receive the 33rd Degree in Masonry, but died before it could be conferred, the honor was given to his brother Frederick.”⁵⁸ His obituary states that he “...had three great interests in life-his family, business and Masonry.”⁵⁹ It lists all of his Masonic affiliations. Remember that both he and William had been Worshipful Masters of the Ellettsville lodge. It is hard to believe that he would not have gotten the 33rd degree on his own. He had been chairman of the committee in charge of building the Masonic Temple in Bloomington. He was a Baptist, and Elk, and an Odd Fellow. It can safely be said that Fred was a joiner. He served for a time on the school board and the hospital board and after moving from Ellettsville to Bloomington in 1900 he was twice elected Democratic County Auditor. He had been one of the leading proponents of the “Griffy Creek water venture” that expanded the municipal water supply in Bloomington. His primary occupation was the family stone business and after the death of his brother William in 1907 he arranged for the company to be incorporated as the Matthews Brothers Company. Presumably prior to that time it had been a partnership.



Figure 59 Frederick Matthews

Aside from his role in the family stone business, he was involved in organizing the P. M. & B. Stone Company in 1889 along with his brother William and his brother Peter’s widow, Sarah (and others). In 1893 with his brother William and Gilbert and Henry Perry he organized the Crescent Stone Company.⁶⁰ He also was involved with the Empire Stone Company.⁶¹ His obituary said he

⁵⁸ *Genealogy*, p. 255. The obituary (see note 39) states that “...he was made a 33rd degree Mason at Detroit, Mich., on September 20, 1910.

⁵⁹ Unless otherwise indicated, most information about Frederick comes from his obituary in the *Bloomington Telephone* of March 4, 1932. A copy of this was kindly given to me by the indefatigable Ron Marquardt and I am indebted to him (as on so many other occasions) because that obituary was the impetus to begin this paper.

⁶⁰ Clay W. Stuckey, *op. cit.*, pp. 26, 55-6, and 100.

“...engaged in many outside ventures—and practically always with success as he was a most level-headed businessman.” Outside of stone he was involved for twenty years in the Indiana Gold Dredging Company in Oroville, California. Some of the other men in this business were prominent limestone operators in Monroe County. He was one of the founders of the Citizens Loan and Trust Company and continued on its board of directors and for over twenty years he was a director of the First National Bank.

Alongside the front page obituary for Frederick there appeared a separate article by Blaine W. Bradfute, the editor and owner of the newspaper. It was entitled simply “Comment by B. W. Bradfute” and ran as follows:

I have been a newspaper man in Bloomington all my life. For thirty years I have been writing of and about Bloomington people and strangers passing this way and this is my tribute to Frederick Matthews—in all this long newspaper and personal acquaintance I have never heard a single man speak an ill word about Mr. Matthews. I have searched this memory of thirty years of reportorial [sic] work and I can recall no single word of condemnation or anger towards this distinguished citizen of Bloomington who died last evening. I can say this of no other man—and certainly The Telephone has in that time reviewed the work and careers of many fine men. There was a spark about Mr. Matthews that set him just a little bit above other fine men—he never in any way aroused jealousy or ill feeling from another individual.

Mr. Matthews was a remarkable personality in many respects. He had a genius for business which brought him financial success over a long period of years and in many different ventures—but he engaged in no sharp practices which many businessmen find necessary but dissociate from other angles of their lives. He was the most genial of men but no man could stand more firm on an opinion or conviction. He never pussyfooted on any question or in any situation. He did not rush forth an opinion. He gave a matter some thought, came to a conclusion, made up his mind—and then remained as unbending as the stone which was the foundation of his financial fortune. And he quarreled with the opinions of no other men. He was a human example and refreshing exhibition of ‘personal liberty’ at its very best.

Most successful businessmen get little out of life but the dollars they pile up—they sacrifice everything to business success. Mr. Matthews sacrificed nothing to business success. He was a home loving man and enjoyed his family. But his home and business did not limit his friendships or pleasures. He hunted and fished as a young man and in the later years of his life found great pleasure in club contacts and friendships. It can be honestly said that he gave the best of himself in every direction. Few men of this community have or will have as much pleasure of life as Mr. Matthews had—and deserved.

It can also be said of Mr. Matthews that he never failed to give the best of himself in every situation. He was a man of the greatest strength of character, a man of the strongest will—but it is doubtful if there is a man who can say that he ever saw Mr. Matthews lose his temper or lose control of a situation. There were no evasions about his man. He had many virtues and much charity—but he made no parade of his virtues and his many charities were entirely a secret. He stood four-square. Bloomington will not soon again look upon such a man.

⁶¹ *History of Lawrence and Monroe Counties, Indiana, Their People, Industries and Institutions*, B. F. Bowen & Co., Inc. 1914, p. 617. This states that he was president of the Crescent Stone Company and president of the Empire Stone Company.

Frederick Matthews and his wife Nettie lived at 419 North Walnut Street. The house has not survived. They are buried in the Mausoleum at Rose Hill Cemetery in Bloomington.

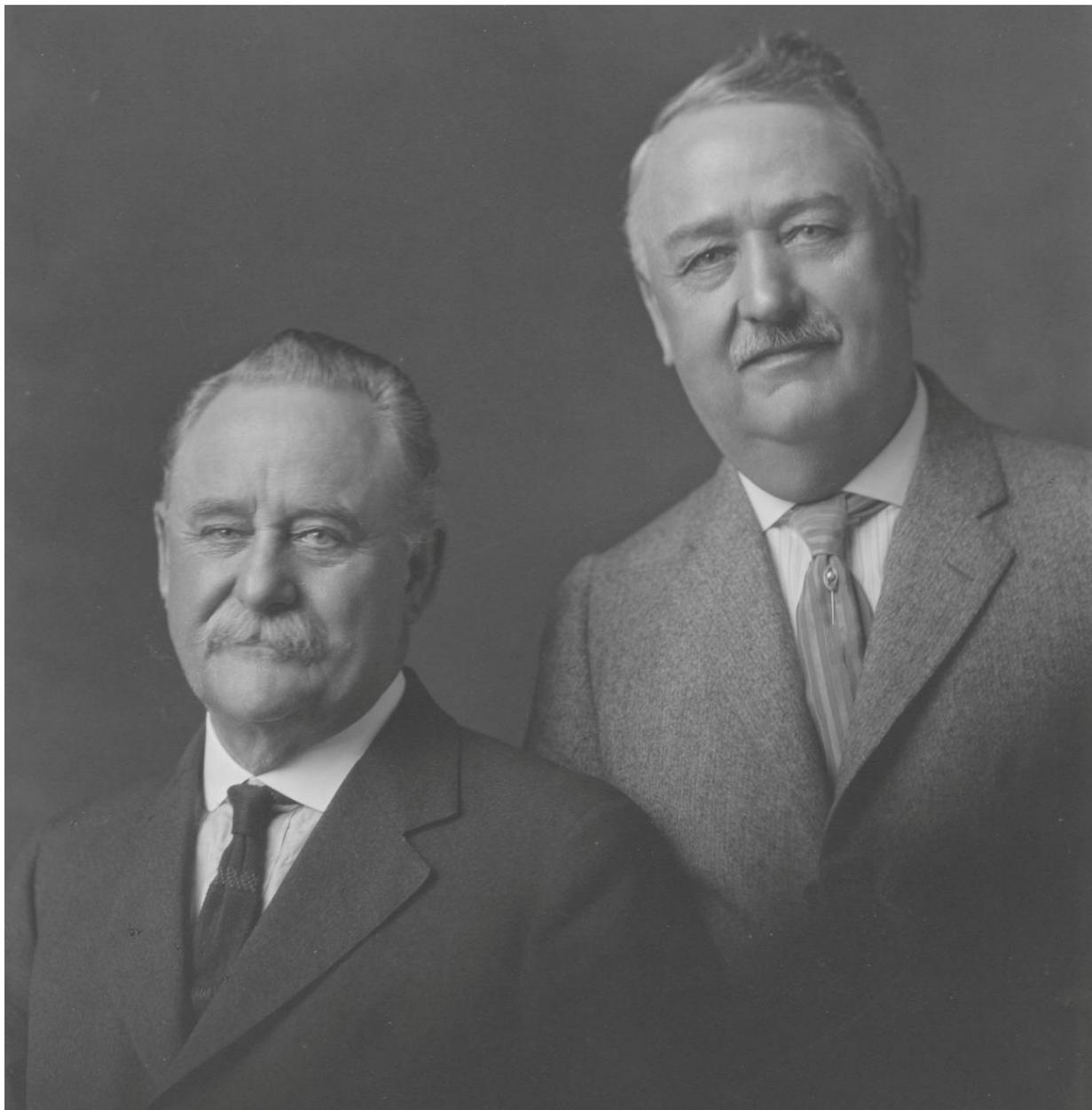


Figure 60 This 1922 studio portrait of Charles on the left and Frederick on the right was taken by the Shaw studio in 1922 and was provided by Nancy E. Jonas.



Figure 61 These are the vaults for William and Nettie Matthews in the Mausoleum at Rose Hill Cemetery in Bloomington.



Figure 62 The Mausoleum at Rose Hill Cemetery in Bloomington, IN.



Figure 63 The home of Frederick and Nettie Matthews at 419 North Walnut. This is from page 3 of the 1927 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Bloomington. The red A marks the house. It has not survived. See Figure 26 for the source of this map.

Reflections

From my previous work on the history of the limestone industry, I knew of the huge importance of the Matthews company. I knew of the mansion, the mill, the myriad of famous buildings built from stone quarried by the company, and the stately monument in Bedford, but I didn't know much about the men. This paper tries to answer the question of who were those guys that made up the "sons" and "brothers" in the company name. The information is scant and further effort could always unearth more but I am satisfied. I am content that I at least have a feel for who those fellows were that made up the first two generations of Matthews

that built and maintained one of the finest stone companies in the district. Families come, they begat, and they be gone, but the Matthews clearly were a hard working entrepreneurial type of family that left a significant mark on the landscape. They gave importance to education, (especially so as John was illiterate),⁶² community service, family, and work. They were Baptists, Masons, and Democrats but they were staunch unionists during the Civil War even if none of them probably voted for Lincoln. In short, they appeared to be a credit to everything with which they were associated. They seem like nice folks. I would like to have met them. If in telling their story I have gathered together in one location some wonderful historical photographs that have a story of their own to tell, then, gentle reader, just think of it as a “two fur.”

Bedford, Indiana
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If anyone has any comments or corrections they may contact me at the following:

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I especially want to thank the current owner of the Matthews Mansion, Nancy E. Jonas, for her help in providing research materials for this paper. Without her kind assistance this work would have been much harder and the final result less satisfactory. She has always been so very hospitable and most importantly, in her twenty-three years of stewardship of that lovely house she has rendered it in much better condition than when she found it. For that we all thank her.

⁶² John Matthews signed his will with his mark, “X”.

Picture Credits

- 1,2,3 Nancy E. Jonas
- 4 United States Geologic Survey
- 5-10 Clay W. Stuckey
- 11 Nancy E. Jonas (top) and Josephine Stuckey (bottom)
- 12 Josephine Stuckey
- 13-15 Clay W. Stuckey
- 16 John Patton
- 17 Indiana Limestone Handbook, 20th edition
- 18-19 A Short History of Indiana Limestone by Bill McDonald
- 20-22 *Bygone Days Along the Monon* Website by Tom Kepshire
- 24 A Short History of Indiana Limestone by Bill McDonald
- 25-26 <http://www.libraries.iub.edu/index.php?pagelid=1002181>
- 27-29 Clay W. Stuckey
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- 33 Ron Marquardt download from Google
- 34 Sandborn Fire Insurance Map Clay W. Stuckey collection
- 35 Monroe County Historical Society, Inc./Monroe History Center
- 36 Monroe County Interim Report by Bloomington Restorations
- 37-39 Clay W. Stuckey
- 40 Bybee Stone Company
- 41-Clay W. Stuckey
- 42 <http://quarriesandbeyond.org/> reprinted from *Scientific American*, March 29, 1973, p. 191
- 43-45 Clay W. Stuckey
- 46 *Quarries and Mills*, May, 1929, p. 9
- 47-48 Monroe County Historical Society, Inc./Monroe History Center
- 49-*Quarries and Mills*, May, 1929, p. 9
- 50-51 Monroe County Historical Society, Inc./Monroe History Center
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- 63 <http://www.libraries.iub.edu/index.php?pagelid=1002181>