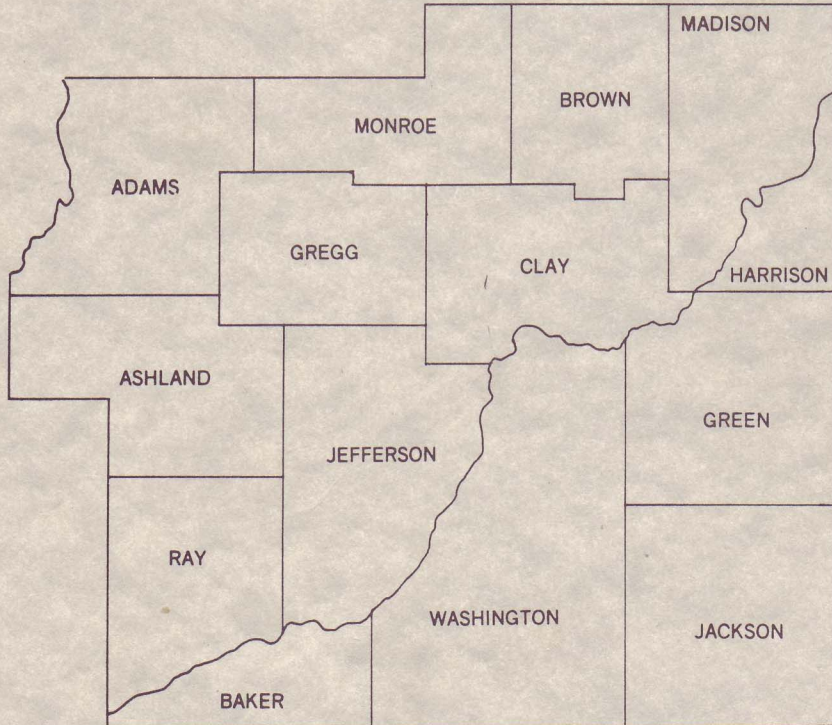


COURT HOUSE, MARTINSVILLE, INDIANA



I
977.2573
Morgan

MORGAN COUNTY SCRAPBOOK

Vol. I

Morgan County Scrapbook Vol. I

INDIANA ROOM

This is not a history, nor a genealogy, but has both historical and genealogical information as well as folklore and legend.

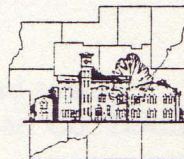
It is compiled from newspapers, and written by many different people from Morgan County.

Volume I contains early information, about business, people, legal framework of towns and county.

Volume II will contain information about schools, churches, more lifestyle stories, biographies and important information which may have been left out of Volume I.

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Vol. I
copy 1

Fourth generation operates



John Bucker

Albert Bucker

Robert Bucker

Bill Bucker

Ed Bucker

John Bucker, a German immigrant, opened the Mooresville Marble Works in 1874 and today great-grandsons, Ed and Bill Bucker, with Mrs. Robert Bucker, carry on the business into the fourth generation as Bucker and Son Monumental Works. A newspaper dated January 1875 in the files of the Mooresville Public Library carries the ad of the Bucker firm.

In 1966 the Morgan County Farmers-Businessmen's Association presented a plaque to Robert Bucker designating his business as the oldest continuous family business in the county.

The original shop was on East Main Street, but moved to the present location in 1880. The present shop was built in 1930. There have been many changes since John Bucker used a chisel and wooden mallet or maul to carve letters and designs on marble and limestone tombstones. Granite was just beginning to be quarried when John's son Albert was born in 1875. Although Albert worked with the maul and chisel in his youth, he installed an air compressor in 1920 and many of the beautiful works of art with life-like sprays of lilies, roses and ferns were carved with chisels operated by compressed air. Albert bought blocks of granite weighing 10 tons and split them into markers and monuments of various sizes and shapes. Murrell "Nemo" Shrake worked about 20 years for Albert Bucker during the years when large blocks of granite were split into smaller stones to be lettered. Cutting the big

blocks was a job which required hard work and skill to break the grained granite. After the stone had been split into required sizes, a 10-hour work day was required to smooth the face of a single slant-style stone shown in the 1927 photograph. Much more time was required for the shaping of double-size stones in preparation for lettering.

Pete Crawford, who lives near the railroad, recalls that a horse-drawn wagon was moving a large block of granite from the railroad depot to the monument shop when the weight of the stone broke one of the wagon wheels. The wagon wheel had to be taken to Richardson's blacksmith shop and repaired before the stone could be moved to the monument shop.

Until the sandblast was installed, a letter sunk in the stone could not be cut very deep with the chisel. Much of the lettering was raised with the background being cut away. When the sandblast was first used to cut the sunken-style letter, the face of the stone had to be covered with a mixture of glycerine, furniture glue and water cooked in a double boiler. Today, rubber stencil is purchased in sheets ready to glue on the face of the stone.

When it was necessary to add the date of death on a tombstone in the cemetery in those days, a large cast iron tank about five feet in diameter and 10 feet long was filled with air from the stationary air compressor in the shop and taken to the cemetery to operate the sandblast which cut

the letters. Albert Bucker is remembered for his mounting a railroad train whistle on his truck with this tank of compressed air and using it for "shivarees" for newlyweds.

Ed and Bill Bucker work in a small shop behind the family home on West Harrison Street. Cut and polished stone from 27 states and some foreign countries are delivered to this building, ready to be lettered and designed with one of a number of floral patterns. Both marble and granite are used, but the latter is preferred for its superior strength. Now the blocks are cut by huge and expensive machines with wire saws and polishers and delivered to the shop in sizes as ordered. There is only one firm in Indiana with equipment for cutting the large blocks into individual gravestones.

To letter a stone today, Ed first glues a sheet of rubber stencil on the face of the stone. Using lead type similar to that used in print shops, he gets a carbon paper outline of the names and dates on the sheet of rubber. Another kind of type with a cutting edge is heated and pressed into the sheet of rubber to cut the individual letters to make a stencil of the rubber sheet. Floral designs are cut in the rubber with a small, sharp knife. The stone is then placed in the sandblast room and a stream of carborundum sand is directed at the lettering under 100-pound pressure. The abrasive bounces off the rubber sheet and digs into the granite or marble exposed by the stenciled letters. For shaping flowers and leaves and other decorations, a smaller nozzle

Bucker Monuments

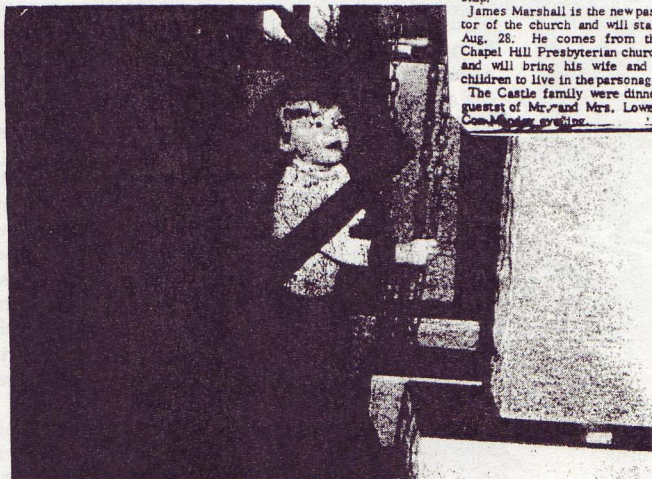
under less pressure with finer abrasive is used. The compartment in which the sandblasting is done has an exhaust fan to take away the fine stone dust which would be harmful if breathed in by the operator. The carborundum said is gathered from the floor, granite dust removed, and used again.

Most vital in placing the stone is the construction of a foundation adequate to support it. A foundation of the correct depth and shape will support the stone indefinitely.

Two-year-old Brian Bucker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bucker Jr., representing the fifth generation, is shown in a photograph with a pair of tongs, hand forged by a blacksmith many years ago and used in lifting stones more than 50 years ago.

Robert Bucker, who died in 1971, operated the business for over 30 years. He was first associated in business with his father Albert and later with his three sons. His son Robert Jr. entered military service for four years after graduation from high school and did not return to work in the monument shop.

It is not unusual to have mail delivered which is just addressed to "The Monument Man," Mooresville.



TWO-YEAR-OLD Brian Bucker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bucker Jr., is shown in a photograph with a pair of tongs

Bucker Monuments advertised in 1875.

The Mooresville Enterprise

"RIGHT AND FORWARD"
MOORESVILLE, INDIANA, FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 1875. NUMBER 1

The Mooresville Herald

"ONWARD AND UPWARD"
MOORESVILLE, INDIANA, FRIDAY, JULY 24, 1875.

Mooresville Marble Works

J. BUCKER & SON,

Manufacturers and Dealers in

ITALIAN & AMERICAN MARBLE.

MONUMENTS & HEADSTONES

Constantly kept on hand and manufactured to order.
Please give us a call before purchasing elsewhere.

MAIN STREET OPPOSITE POSTOFFICE

MOORESVILLE, - - - IND.

The above ad was run in 1875 by Bucker and Son, oldest existing business in Morgan county, John Bucker, grandfather of present operator Bob Bucker came to Morgan county in 1867. In that year Mooresville had two

newspapers as shown by the banners reproduced above. First paper in Mooresville was The Chronicle according to a directory of the time. Above originals were secured from the collection in the Mooresville public library.

Valley Mills

by Mrs. Alta Kane

The David Castle family will leave for their new home in Oskaloosa, Iowa, August 9. He will preach his final sermon at Valley Mills Friends church Sunday, Aug. 7. Last Sunday a coffee hour honoring the Castle family was held following worship.

James Marshall is the new pastor of the church and will start Aug. 28. He comes from the Chapel Hill Presbyterian church and will bring his wife and 4 children to live in the parsonage. The Castle family were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Coe Monday evening.

Linda Jo

McIntosh weds

Wm. Liverett

The marriage of Linda Jo McIntosh to Mr. William R. Liverett was performed in Southport Presbyterian church in Southport, Friday evening.

Parents of the couple are Mr. and Mrs. Edgar D. McIntosh, 4614 South High School rd., and Mr. and Mrs. Elwyn M. Liverett of 2130 South Lee dr., Southport.





MPL Photograph Report

FILE NAME	Business
ID	162
TITLE OR MAIN SUBJECT	Bucker Monument Company, W. Harrison St., Mooreville, IN
OTHER SUBJECT TERMS	
NAMES IDENTIFIED	
DATE	
MEDIUM	
SIZE	
PHOTOGRAPHER	
COPY	
DUPLICATE PRINT	
NEGATIVE	
PRESERVATION NEEDS	
RESEARCH NOTES	John Bucker, who came from Germany, opened the Mooreville Marble Works in 1874. His great-grandsons, Ed and Bill, carry on the family business at 34 W. Harrison. Those who have been in the business are John Bucker, Albert Bucker, Robert Bucker, Ed Bucker, and Bill Bucker.
SOURCE	History of Mooreville - 1824 - 1974



Buckers Monuments - West Harrison - Grandma
Carolyn Bucker and granddaughter Mable at right
of picture. Albert Bucker, white shirt, Buck Zook
boy Verl Horton, grandson of Henry Bucker 1906 or 07

Albert Bucker (white shirt)
Buck Zook
Verl Horton (son of Henry Bucker)
- Mable Bucker
Grandma Carolyn Bucker

1906

MPL Photograph Report

FILE NAME	Business
ID	43
TITLE OR MAIN SUBJECT	Buckers Monuments
OTHER SUBJECT TERMS	
NAMES IDENTIFIED	Grandma Carolyn Bucker, Granddaughter Mable at right, Albert Bucker (white shirt), Buck Zook in doorway; boy is Verl Horton, grandson of Henry Bucker.
DATE	1906 or 1907
MEDIUM	Black and White Glossy
SIZE	8 x 10
PHOTOGRAPHER	
COPY	
DUPLICATE PRINT	
NEGATIVE	
PRESERVATION NEEDS	
RESEARCH NOTES	John Bucker, who came from Germany, opened the Mooresville Marble works in 1874. Today, great-grandsons, Ed & Bill carry on at 34 W. Harrison St. Those who have been in the business are John Bucker, Albert Bucker, Robert Bucker, Ed and Bill Bucker.
SOURCE	History of Mooresville 1824 1974



MPL Photograph Report

FILE NAME	Business
ID	163
TITLE OR MAIN SUBJECT	Bucker Monument Company, W. Harrison St., Mooresville, IN
OTHER SUBJECT TERMS	
NAMES IDENTIFIED	Robert Bucker
DATE	
MEDIUM	
SIZE	
PHOTOGRAPHER	
COPY	
DUPLICATE PRINT	
NEGATIVE	
PRESERVATION NEEDS	
RESEARCH NOTES	Robert Bucker, standing by 1934 Dodge truck.
SOURCE	