

The 1912 report by Parks Canada

William and Robert Bonter. Marmora, Lot 8, Con. III, Marmora Hastings County

On the south side of Crow lake is situated what is known locally as the "old lithographic quarry." This property was opened about 17 years ago by the American Lithographic and Asbestos Co. and extensive operations were carried, on for about 3 years. The excavation is roughly 150 by 100 feet with a depth of 20 feet. The following beds are exposed in descending order:-

- 3 feet—Thin bedded and fractured limestone.
- 1 foot—Light brown, fine grained stone (blue lithographic).
- 2 feet—Thin bedded stone (cement beds).
- 1 foot--Blue lithographic.
- 1 foot—Blue lithographic.
- 18 inches—Thin bedded blue lithographic.
- 10 inches—Blue lithographic.
- 14 inches—Coarse, somewhat crystalline brown compact limestone (leatherlug).
- 15 inches—Fine smooth whitish limestone (white lithographic).

While operating the quarry the company installed a 110 horse-power engine, 3 gang saws, 1 rubbing bed, and 1 planer. Although a channeling machine was in operation for a short time, the exploitation was largely effected by the use of dynamite. According to local observers and in all probability in accordance with the facts the final closing of the plant was due to the injudicious use of this shattering explosive. The building is still in fair repair and of the equipment there remain the three saws, a rubbing bed and a horse hoist, all capable of being again put in commission.

The lithographic stone was sawn into slabs and smoothed. The leather-lug was sawn into slabs 3 to 4 inches thick with the intention of using it as curbing stone. Over 100 such slabs, some of them 3 feet by 6 feet, are still on the premises but they are broken and destroyed by frost.

It is not the intention of the report to discuss the suitability of this stone for lithographic purposes; it seems to have been employed with a fair measure of success. As a building material it possesses the same advantages as the stone from Pearce's quarry nearer Marmora. Miller gives the following analyses of lithographic stone from these quarries:—'

	Light Blue-gray stone.	Dark blue-grey stone.
Insoluble Residue.....	3.71	3.60
Organic matter.....	0-40	1.29
Carbonate of lime .....	89.98	88.03
Carbonate of magnesia .....	2. 78	2.50
Soluble silica )		0.49
Alumina )	0.73	0.57
Ferric oxide .....	0.15	0.35
F',rrous oxide .....	0.10	0.04
Water.....	1.25	1.36
	99.10	99.23

The finer grades of stone from this quarry possess an undoubted value as a decorative material. Cut across the bedding and polished, a delicate wavy lamination is revealed which somewhat resembles opalized wood. Cut parallel to the bedding there are produced clouded effects in tones of grey.

By careful manipulation very delicate and intricate carvings can be made. It is not intended to produce the impression that this material approaches the true marbles in beauty, but as a decorative material of the second grade, it is not to be disregarded.

It is an interesting fact that the shavings from the planers if wetted and allowed to stand set to a cement of considerable strength.

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