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THE STORY OF THE  
GENERAL CRUSHED STONE COMPANY, INC.

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Easton, Pennsylvania

After he resigned as a professor at Lafayette in 1917, he worked as a consulting engineer, specializing in structural work. He was president of the Easton Bridge Company and was connected with many large engineering projects one of which was the "Free Bridge" connecting Easton and Phillipsburg, New Jersey, still in service.<sup>20</sup>

He was a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the International Association for Testing Materials (predecessor of American Society for Testing and Materials), the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Professor Porter married Mary Virginia Drake of Easton on November 15, 1888. Since John Rice, Sr., married another of Samuel Drake's daughters at a later date, Porter and Rice became brothers-in-law.<sup>21</sup>

Porter was described in Heller's *History of Northampton County* as being "a man of friendly, genial disposition, most hospitable, and enjoys both the pleasure of motoring and the less speedy but also less arduous game of golf."<sup>22</sup>

Professor Porter was the author of various text books on engineering and metal testing and the inventor of instruments and machines for testing metals of all kinds.<sup>23</sup>

#### COMPANY ACTIVITIES UNDER PORTER

During 1903 the company negotiated with the Rock Hill Granite Company to lease the Rock Hill Quarry at the rate of one cent royalty per cubic yard of stone. At the same time the company had negotiated with the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad Company for a track connection to service this quarry operation. Early in the year the property of Jerome Park had been sold but the plant was removed and subsequently erected at Rock Hill. Business fell off in 1903 and the management feared that the company might have to go into receivership. However, business picked up and the company completed one year more successfully than expected.<sup>24</sup>

The Rock Hill Quarry proved to be much more expensive to operate than expected. Considerable overburden had to be removed to quarry the stone and the rock was extremely hard and difficult to crush and screen. The stone at this quarry was pronounced by the Government as the hardest stone in the United States.<sup>25</sup>

A report by vice president Rice in January, 1905, summarized the operations as follows: "North LeRoy operated as successfully as at any time during its history. Railway business was forecast to be about



Rock Hill Quarry at Quakertown, Pennsylvania, 1903 - 1982.

as usual for the coming year but road construction was expected to drop off. The Wilkes Barre plant arranged to overhaul the ballast car equipment. Ballast business was expected to be about normal for the coming year and commercial business better than previously. The Redington plant was operated at a slight profit with prospects for the coming year about the same as the past. As stated previously, Rock Hill Quarry operated at a loss due to the high costs of stripping and crushing. Future results were expected to be fair since the quarry was being widened and the face heightened with increased development. Furthermore, the stripping operation was expected to become less severe and the management expected to better understand how to handle this difficult stone to process."<sup>26</sup>



Jordanville Quarry, Jordanville, New York. Acquired in 1940 from the United Coach Company. Transferred to Eastern Rock Products Company in 1970.

aggregate for the Mount Morris Dam, New York, was set up at LeRoy operation and the Jordanville quarry was acquired.<sup>74</sup>

One contribution made to the company by its operation of Port Deposit quarry was the employment of J. Walter Harward who stayed with the company after Port Deposit quarry was closed. He later became the Pennsylvania sales manager and was one of the company's most loyal employees.

The success story was in the bituminous concrete plants. New plants were installed at Horseheads and Watertown, New York, in 1933. The Interstate Amiesite Plants on company property were acquired in 1937. A plant was installed at Smethport, Pennsylvania, in 1937. A portable bituminous concrete plant was purchased and installed at Mt. Pleasant, Delaware, in 1944. Another plant was purchased from C.J. Langenfelder in 1947 and installed at Redden, Delaware. By 1951, the company operated eleven bituminous concrete plants and produced 536,573 tons of product which resulted in a profit of \$381,472.<sup>75</sup> The company's pioneering efforts in conjunction with Mr. Amies in 1910 were paying off. The cold mix plants were all converted to hot mix plants in 1942,<sup>76</sup> except at Glen Mills, Rock Hill, and LeRoy, where separate cold mix facilities were maintained.