

G.I. Rucker

1821 - 1883

G. I. Rucker came to Greenfield from Cincinnati in 1854 and acquired some 85 acres on the Ross County side of Paint Creek and about 13 acres on the Highland County side, all under laid with great deposits of Niagara limestone of the Devonian Age overlaid with Helderbrg limestone 42 feet in thickness and covered with ten feet of glacial drift.

The stone was regular in bedding, making it possible to quarry large stone slabs 3 or 4 inches thick with the surface as smooth and regular as if had been sawed. Mr. Rucker proceeded to quarry the stone on a large scale for the Cincinnati market.

He produced cut stone for buildings, crushed stone for the streets, and sidewalks, curbs and gutters and lime in large quantities. The skies of Greenfield were lit up at night from the burning lime kilns which burned day and night.

In 1879 he formed a partnership with his son George W., who carried on the business after his father's death. He built a magnificent stone mansion overlooking Paint Creek valley.

THE RUCKER STONE COMPANY.

The quarry business now known as the Rucker Stone Company was established by Mr. G. I. Rucker in 1854. It afterwards became known under the title of Rucker & Co. In 1893 it was incorporated with George W. Rucker, President, and George A. Love,

Secretary and Treasurer. The principal quarry and office are in Greenfield, while there is also a large quarry at Hillsboro and a valuable gravel bank at West Loveland. The Greenfield quarries are located just outside the city limits across Paint Creek in Ross County. Every appliance used in quarry work is found here: elevated tracks, shifting cables, steam drills, stone crushers, derricks and hoisting apparatus.

In 1895 Mr. G. W. Rucker succeeded in making many improvements in the manner of lifting and conveying stone to the cars. By a clever system of elevated tracks and cables the stone for the crushers and lime kiln is carried by gravity and discharged. Gravity also carries the stone for shipment to the cars. From 100 to 125 men are employed at the Greenfield quarries while about 80 are on the pay roll of the Hillsboro quarry of which the superintendent is Mr. Thomas McCormick.

Curbing, crosswalks, flagging, building and dimension stone, and screen and crushed limestone are furnished while a splendid grade of gravel is secured at West Loveland.

The business done is very large, the shipments for last year being in the neighborhood of 4800 cars.

THE RUCKER STONE COMPANY.

One of the great industries that has done much to increase the growth and prosperity of Greenfield is the Rucker Stone Company, which operates quarries here and at Hillsboro, with a gravel bank at Loveland. The officers are: G. W. Rucker, President; G. F. Potter, Vice President, and Geo. A. Love, Secretary and Treasurer, with the principal offices in this city. The Greenfield quarries are situated on the east bank of Paint Creek, just outside the city limits. They are an extensive affair, with their steam drills, stone crushers, lime kilns, elevated tracks, shifting cables, derricks and hoisting apparatus, and on working days present a scene of bustle and activity cheerful to behold. The principal business of the company is furnishing screen and crushed limestone curbing, crosswalks, flagging, building and dimension stone and lime, and screened gravel from their Loveland banks.

This year extensive improvements have been made in the lifting and carrying appliances, among which is an ingenious system of elevated tracks and cables, of Mr. Rucker's own devising, by which the material intended for the lime kilns and crushers is carried to its respective places in cars by gravitation and automatically dumped, and the heavier stone is carried by the cables to the railroad track and deposited on the cars.

The company employs from 100 to 125 men in the Greenfield quarries and from 75 to 80 at Hillsboro. The business done is enormous, the shipments last year aggregating 4,700 carloads and approximating the vast sum of \$200,000, a large part of which is distributed here in wages and improvements.

The gentlemen who compose the company are endowed with the highest intelligence, integrity and business qualifications. They rank among Greenfield's most active and progressive citizens and are as popular with those whom they have business transactions abroad as they are among the people at home.

1895