

Creating an Ancestral Memorial ...for George Michael Schwarz

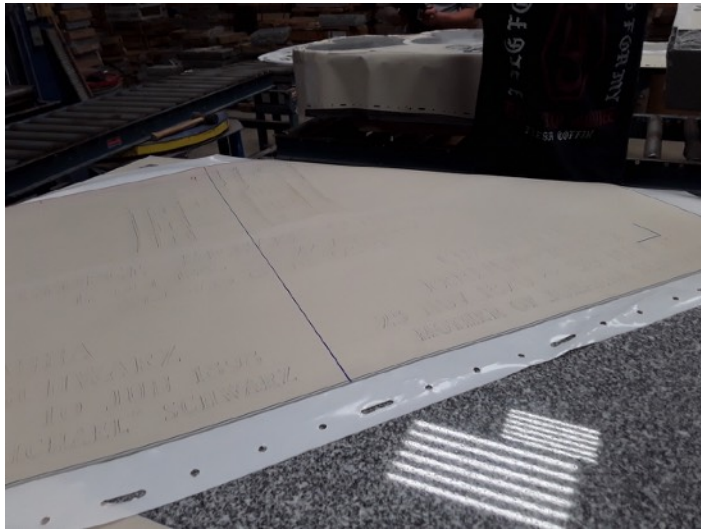
Patten Monument Co., of Holland, Michigan, was most helpful in guiding us through the stone selection and design of the headstone for our ancestors, George Michael Schwarz, Johanna Mehde-Schwarz and her mother, Charlotte Perlick-Mehde. Because their graves are in the “old section” of the Pilgrim Home Cemetery on 16th Street in Holland, Michigan, it was important that the stone blended in with the surrounding memorials. Memorials during that timeframe (late 1800’s-early 1900’s) did not have polished top and sides. That is why we chose the Barre Granite from Barre, Vermont.

Most of the memorials during this timeframe are Barre Granite. I believe it is the first quarried granite in the USA and is considered the “gold standard” for several reasons: ...the consistent texture is ideal to accept detail ...accepts a perfect polish ...is weather resistant ...and lasts for eons of time. Because of Barre granite’s superior qualities they have enjoyed over 200 years of business.

Also, Patten Monument Co. worked with us to incorporate our own castle drawing of “The Schwarz Family Castle” as well as the little birds in the upper corners.

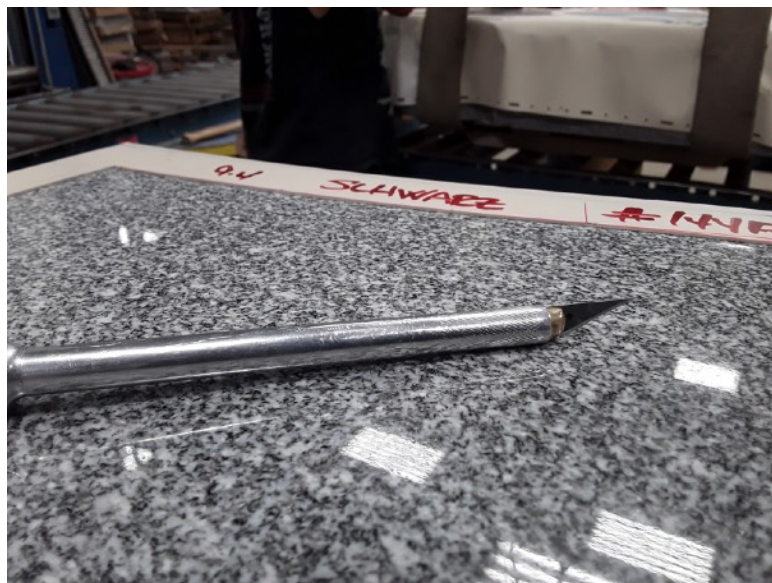


We appreciate Patten Monument Co. for taking photos throughout the manufacturing process so we can document this historic ancestral memorial ...Sally and David Nye



Once the customer has approved the monument design, the manufacturing process begins in the “layout” department. The stencil is printed onto a sheet of rubber ...yes, the gray that you see is actually a thin rubber mat. This is produced on a huge printer and the plastic with holes along the edge takes the rubber mat through the printer.

Four rubber mat stencils will be used: two for the front and back outer-edges and two for the letters/design for the front and back.



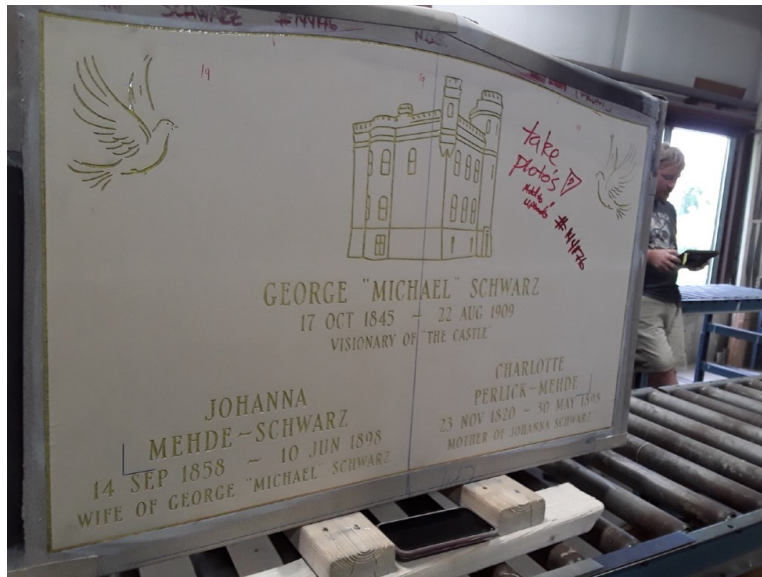
An Exacto knife is used to cut the letters, design, etc. into the rubber stencils used ...then the loose pieces of rubber are “picked” away. The rubber stencil is placed onto the monument and the sandblaster will sandblast only those “exposed” (cut-out) parts of the stencil.



The stone arrives from Barre Quarry with polished front and back. This photo shows a rubber stencil attached with the center cut away ...leaving only the rubber edge going around the stone (where you see the red lettering). The stone will be sandblasted to remove the center polished surface. The outer polished edge is protected by the rubber stencil. Before this stone is finished, it will have 4 passes through the sandblasting machine: first, to sandblast the center front and ...second, to do the same to the back.



Back side of monument.



Another rubber stencil (with lettering and design) is “cut” and the rubber “picked” out. Then, it is attached to the stone and ready to make the third pass through the sandblasting machine. This is the second pass to the front side.



The fourth pass will be to the back side.
(photo at right.)



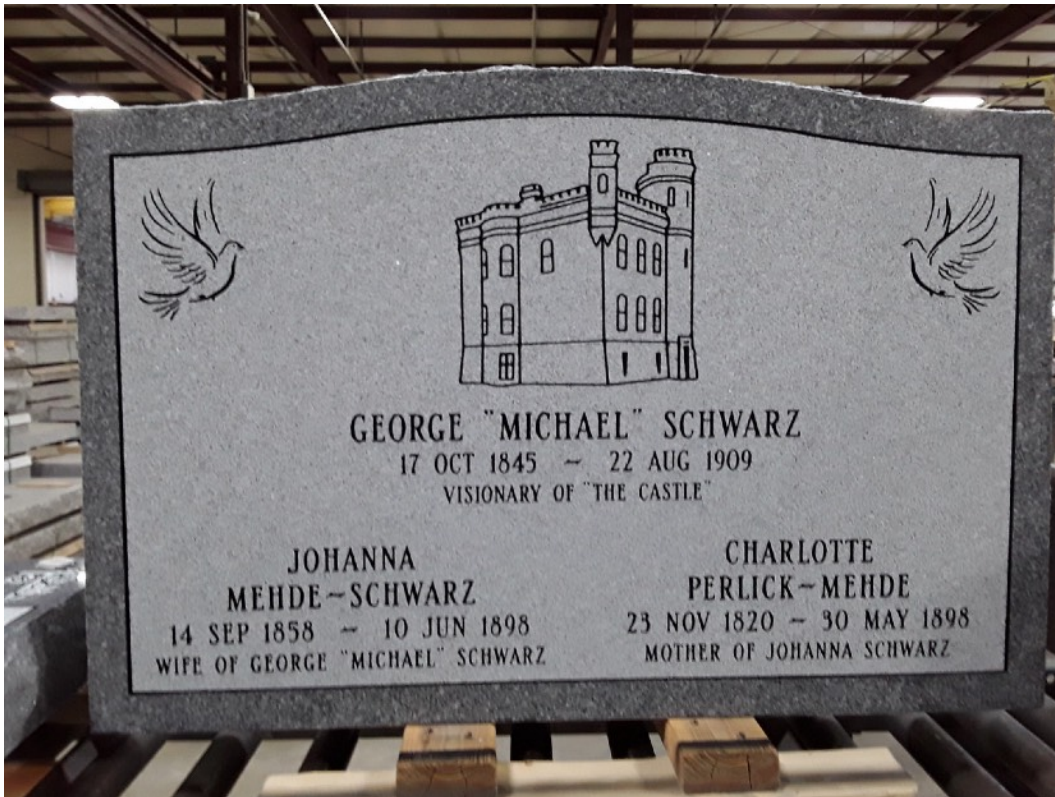
The lettering and design have been sandblasted on both sides.



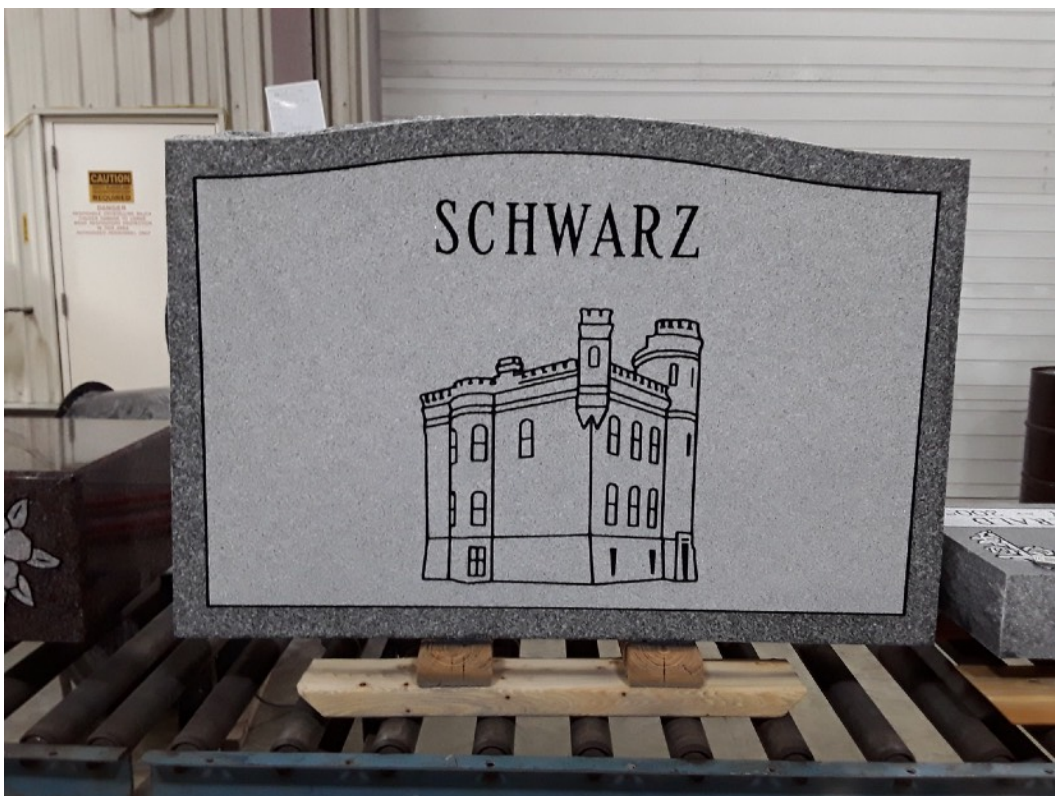


Now the stone moves through the litho (paint) area. This adds paint to the design and text. Of course, the stencil is still attached to both sides.





The stone memorial is now complete with the stencils removed. The darker gray edge (which arrived polished) was protected by the stencil. The center was lightly sandblasted ...then lettering and design were sandblasted ...and afterwards black paint was added to complete our ancestral monument.



Installation of our Ancestral Memorial in the Pilgrim Home Cemetery, Holland, Michigan



17 September 2019:

You can imagine my surprise to find this truck ...Patten Monument Co. at the Pilgrim Home Cemetery in Holland, Michigan. It was by “divine intervention” that we happened to be there at the same time.

I was fortunate to meet Brad Jones, who happened to have our Schwarz ancestral monument ...AND, it was the first one in line (of about 10) to be installed.



Brad unloads the base...

The base is set on the foundation. Brad is picking up more tools to proceed.





Peeking through the slats ...my first view of the memorial!!! I thought my heart was going to leap right out of my chest. It was an incredible moment.

Brad unloads the memorial all by himself. This is a huge stone to handle ...he didn't even falter.





Single-handedly, Brad hefts the memorial onto the base. No small task because, as you can see, the foundation is higher than ground level, which puts the base higher than normal.

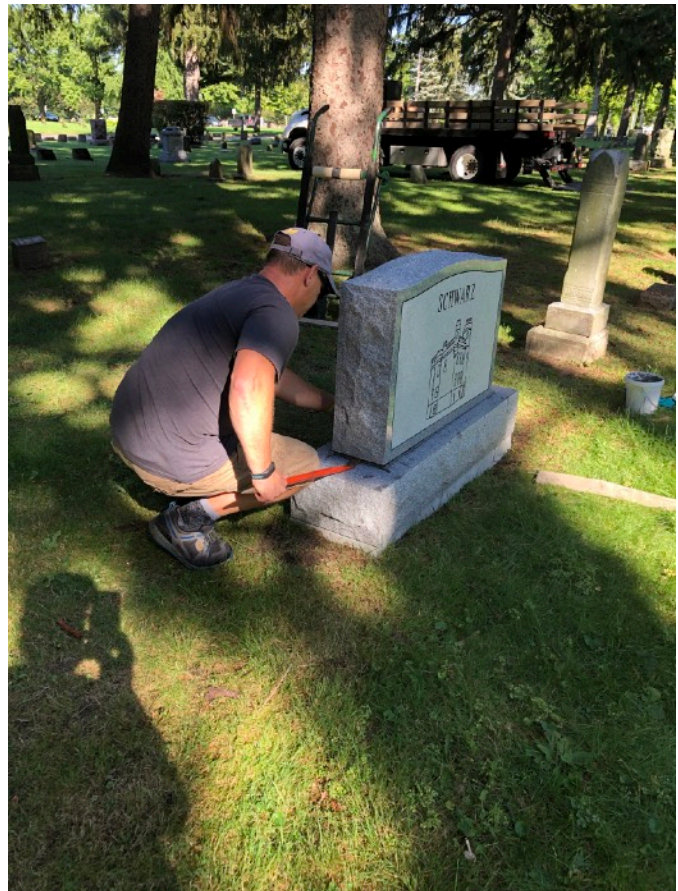
Brad measures and aligns the monument with the base...





He explains that he's placing a stainless steel washer under each corner of the memorial...

Then he creates a "worm" with the clay putty and places it between the top stone and the base. With the washers under each corner, and the putty in place, a vacuum is created which basically seals the two stones together.





The installation is almost complete. The last thing to do is to clean up some putty on the base and wash the stone.

Brad cleans/washes the stone and base





This shows the front view of the wet memorial which will dry brighter.

The back view is wet as well but the sun is shining on it from the east.

The Cemetery will place dirt/grass seed around the foundation to insure a respectful memorial for our ancestors.





Each of Patten Monument's stones come with a Monumark QR code. This is a personal number assigned to our memorial ...ID tag #35022. It should work for GPS with google.com Also people can write comments on this site and do genealogy research.

Our ancestral memorial blends in nicely with the other monuments in this old section of the Pilgrim Home cemetery in Holland, Michigan.





Schwarz descendants celebrate their ancestry.

28 October 2019:

This was in conjunction with the dedication of the Wizard of Oz bronze statues at the Herrick Library in Holland, Michigan ...near where L. Frank Baum authored his book “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz” (published in 1900) with the “yellow castle” which is “The Schwarz Family Castle.”

On the SW corner of 12th Street and River Avenue in Holland, you will find the little Munchkin holding the same castle image in bronze.

