THE GEORGIA GUIDESTONES

“Elberton’s Most Unusual Granite Monument”

“Message and Mystery for Mankind”
The Guides Explained

A massive granite monument espousing the conservation of mankind and future generations. Sources for the sizable financing of the project choose to remain anonymous. The wording of the message proclaimed on the monument is in 12 languages, including the Archaic languages of Sanscrit, Babylonian Cuneiform, Egyptian Hieroglyphics and Classical Greek, as well as English, Russian, Hebrew, Arabic, Hindi, Chinese, Spanish and Swahili.

The guides, followed by explanatory precepts, are as follows: The words here are exactly as the Sponsors provided them:

• Maintain humanity under 500,000,000 in perpetual balance with nature.
  Means the entire human race at its climax level for permanent balance with nature.

• Guide reproduction wisely — improving fitness and diversity.
  Without going into details as yet undiscovered, this means humanity should apply reason and knowledge to guiding its own reproduction. “Fitness” could be translated as “health.” “Diversity” could be translated as “variety.”

• Unite humanity with a living new language.
  A “living” language grows and changes with advancing knowledge. A “new” language will be developed “de novo”—and need not necessarily be adapted from any languages now in existence.

• Rule Passion — Faith — Tradition — and all things with tempered reason.
  “Faith” here may be used in a religious sense. Too often people are ruled by blind faith even when it may be contrary to reason. Reason must be tempered with compassion here—but must prevail.

• Protect people and nations with fair laws and just courts.
  Courts must consider justice as well as law.

• Let all nations rule internally resolving external disputes in a world court.
  Individual nations must be free to develop their own destinies at home as their own people wish—but cannot abuse their neighbors.

• Avoid petty laws and useless officials.
  Self explanatory.

• Balance personal rights with social duties.
  Individuals have a natural concern for their personal welfare, but man is a social animal and must also be concerned for the group. Failure of society means failure for its individual citizens.

• Prize truth — beauty — love — seeking harmony with the infinite.
  The infinite here means the supreme being—whose will is manifest in the workings of the cosmos—if we will seek for it.

• Be not a cancer on the earth — Leave room for nature — Leave room for nature.
  In our time, the growth of humanity is destroying the natural conditions of the earth which have fostered all existing life. We must restore reasoned balance.
The Georgia Guidestones—Message And Mystery For Mankind

Elberton Granite's reputation as one of the world's best monumental stones, Elberton County's geographic location, and fate seem to be key elements in why one of the nation's most unusual monuments was unveiled near Elberton, March 22, 1980. Already called "America's Stonehenge," after the mysterious monuments in England which have puzzled men for ages, THE GEORGIA GUIDESTONES has attracted nationwide publicity and promises to become a major tourist attraction.

Overwhelming in size and steeped in enigma, the GUIDESTONES was revealed to the nation in the Winter, 1979, ELBERTON GRANITEER— and is as much a mystery now as it was then — and probably still will be when man ceases to record his history. The gargantuan, six-piece monument stands 19 1/2 high; in the beautiful hill country eight miles north of Elberton and proclaims a message for the conservation of mankind. Its origins and sponsors are unknown; hence, the mystery.

CHALLENGING PROJECT

The components were manufactured from ELBERTON GRANITE FINISHING CORPORATION's "Pyramid Blue Granite," and the firm's President, Joe H. Fendley, Sr., CM, said the project was one of the most challenging ever for his quarrying and monument manufacturing concern — partly because of the magnitude of the materials and partly because of the exacting specifications from the mysterious group of sponsors, "and those specifications were so precise that they had to be compiled by experts on stone as well as construction," said Fendley.

He said it all began late on a Friday afternoon in June when a well-dressed and articulate man walked into his offices on the Tate Street Extension in Elberton and wanted to know the cost of building a large monument to conservation. He identified himself only as "Mr. Christian." He told Fendley that he represented a small group of loyal Americans living outside Georgia who wished to remain anonymous forever, and that he chose the name "Christian" because he was a Christian. He inquired where Fendley banked and Joe put him in touch with both local banks. Wyatt C. Martin, President of the Granite City Bank, was selected by "Mr. Christian" to be the intermediary for the mysterious project.

According to Martin, the man showed up at his office 30 minutes later, explained the project, and said after completion he hoped other conservation-minded groups would erect even more stones in an outer ring and carry the monument's message in more languages. He told Martin that he wanted the monument erected in a remote area away from the main tourist centers. The gentleman also said that Georgia was selected because of the availability of excellent granite, generally mild climate, and the fact that his great-grandmother was a native Georgian.

ELBERTON COUNTY CHOSEN

Martin persuaded the mystery man that Elberton County was the ideal location for the memorial, and he agreed, provided a suitable location could be found. He returned later and he and Martin inspected sites. "Mr. Christian," who now called himself "R.C. Christian," chose a five-acre plot on the farm of contractor Wayne Mullenix. It is the highest point in Elberton County. A few weeks later, Martin contacted Joe Fendley and told him that funds for the project were in an escrow account and to start work immediately. Martin promised that when the project was completed, he would deliver his file on the affair to the anonymous sponsors and that the secret would never be known.

He said "Christian" told him that the sponsors had planned the monument for years and that the ten "guides" for the conservation of mankind and the earth were carefully worded as a moralistic appeal to all peoples regardless of nationality, religion, or politics.

As explained in the photo-essay on the following pages, the guides are brief maxims espousing population control and other conservation messages in eight languages. The guides are inscribed in eight different languages on four huge stones set in a paddlewheel arrangement with the center stone carved and drilled so that the sun will mark the time of day and the seasons. The guides, which were accompanied by ten explanatory precepts in the specifications, are: Maintain humanity under 500,000,000 in perpetual balance with nature; Guide reproduction wisely— improving fitness and diversity; Unite humanity with a living new language; Rule passion— faith— tradition— and all things with tempered reason; Protect people and nations with fair laws and just courts; Let all nations rule internally, resolving external disputes in a world court; Avoid petty laws and useless officials; Balance personal rights with social duties; Prize truth— beauty— love— seeking harmony with the infinite; and, Be not a cancer on the earth—leave room for nature—leave room for nature.
Quarrying was the most crucial phase of GUIDESTONES production because of the massive size of the slabs and the strain on men and equipment. It was accomplished in the more than 100-ft. depths of the "Pyramid Blue Granite" Quarry. "Our Quarry Superintendent, Jimmy Maffox, and his crew simply did a fantastic job under trying circumstances," said Elberton Granite Finishing Corporation President Joe Fendley, Sr. C.M.

Once quarried, a special burner, developed by the C.S. Pack Company, Inc., was used to size the large blocks, and they were then taken to Reynolds Marble & Granite Company where they were precisely wire-sawed. The four upright sections are 16 ft., 4 in. high, 1 ft., 7 in. thick, and 6 ft., 6 in. wide. The center stone is the same except it is narrower. The capstone has the same width and thickness, but it is only 9 ft., 8 in. long. The four support bases are 7 ft., 4 in. long and weigh 4,875 pounds each.

A special crew under the direction of Joe B. Davis, a retired plant superintendent, was hired to cut and pitch the slabs to the exact dimensions provided by "Mr. Christian." Special crews were hired because the project was so demanding that it would disrupt the regular Elberton Granite Finishing Corporation production schedule.

Charles Clamp, a specialist in sandblast engraving and cleaning granite, glued stencil of the Chinese characters to the center stone of each column. The main inscription on the four outer sections is in English, Russian, Mandarin Chinese, Arabic, Hebrew, Hindi, Swahili and Spanish. Each side contains the 10 "Guides" in one of the eight languages. Inscribed on the four sides of the capstone in the archaic and ancient languages of Babylonian Cuneiform, Sanskrit, Egyptian Hieroglyphs and Classical Greek is the admonition: "Let These Be Guidestones To An Age of Reason.

Elberton Granite Finishing Corporation Draftsman David Brown devoted many long hours in preparing first the layouts, and then the stencil in 12 languages for the GUIDESTONES. Naturalized citizens in Elberton, college and university language experts, clergymen, and even individuals at the United Nations in New York assisted in the translations and transcriptions of the languages.

Once the pieces, averaging from 25 to 27 tons each, were freed from the ledge mass, demowage gingerly lifted them to the rim of the quarry. Quarrymen were especially wary in this phase since demowages don't normally lift such extreme weights. Each of the completed outer stones averaged over 42,000 pounds, the center stone over 20,000, and, including the bases, the total of 941 cubic feet of granite weighed in excess of 119 tons.

Special scaffolding had to be erected at the "Oglethorpe Blue" Quarry plant where the GUIDESTONES were fabricated so that Charles Clamp could sandblast inscribe the over 4,000 letters each approximately 4 inches high. The languages were chosen because they represent those spoken by a majority of the people in the world.

George Gaines, Chief Inspector for E.G.A.'s Certified Memorials Program, closely examined each of the units as it was completed to guarantee that each piece was free of defects and met specifications. The special E.G.A. seal certifying inspection was sandblasted on each unit.
While the GUIDESTONES were being fabricated, ground-breaking was held and site preparation got underway on a ridge on the Hartwell Highway (Georgia Highway 77) eight miles north of Elberton. The site was prepared, including reinforcing steel in the foundation, according to specifications provided by “Mr. Christian.”

The 5-acre site personally chosen by “R.C. Christian,” is a pasture owned by contractor Wayne Mullenix, and is the highest point in Elbert County. According to specifications, it was to be on a ridge commanding a view of the horizon to the east and west within range of Summer and Winter sunrises and sunsets. The plot was purchased and deeded to Elbert County, Joe Fendley, left, County Commission Chairman Billy Ray Brown, center, and Wayne Mullenix review plans.

This photo shows the configuration of the GUIDESTONES; four large outside slabs with a central, or gnomon, stone, arranged like a giant paddlewheel with the outer stones oriented to the limits of migration of the moon during a year. The center stone is marked and holes drilled in it so that the sun’s rays mark the time of day and the seasons of the year. Also, the North Star is always visible through a special slot from the South to the North side of the center stone. An astronomer was used to accurately achieve this placement of the stones.

"Ever so gently!" describes how the crane and setting crew handled the sections and their enormous weight. As shown in the above photo, stainless steel dowel pins were placed in each of the granite bases and the upright sections were set on the pins.

Argo Trucking Company trucks transported the huge slabs from plant to site, and Argo Crane Rental Owner Grady Ailerston expertly supervised the placement of cables and other equipment during the setting. An expert on setting large monuments, Willie Edwards of Elberton, also assisted.

On the cold windswept morning members of the Fendley Family at The Georgia Guidestones' unveiling ceremony included Kirk Ray and Irene Fendley of Virginia, Mary and Joe H. Fendley, Sr., Kathryn White, Joe’s sister, and her daughter, Joyce White of Alabama. Behind the Fendleys is Joe and Mary’s son, “Ace.”

During the waning twilight of March 12, 1980 the final section, the large capstone, was set into place to complete construction of the GUIDESTONES. Joe Fendley is shown directing placement of the capstone. All that remained was steam-cleaning the stone for the March 22, 1980 dedication. "Mr. Christian" specified that the site was to remain in a "natural" state, with no fences or park-like additions.

Preparing promotional material for the Georgia Guidestones are members of the Elberton Granite Finishing Corporation office staff. Pictured left to right are Marcia C. Jenkins, Executive Secretary, Barbara H. Thomas, Secretary-Treasurer; and Melissa A. Fendley, Vice President and Marketing Coordinator. Many hours were spent by these ladies and other members of the office staff in checking specifications and editing material.
The "Secrets" of Stonehenge

An air of mystery broods over England's Stonehenge, and men from all fields of science, as well as spiritualists, clairvoyants and cranks, have studied the remains of these 13-ft. high stones in an effort to uncover the secrets of its past. Was it a temple of the sun? A royal palace? A magic shrine? An observatory for studying the heavens? Was it a gigantic computer built centuries before the Greeks mastered mathematics? One day, perhaps, the answers to all the questions will be known. Or will these colossal stones guard their secrets for eternity?

"Message" of The Georgia Guidestones®

While the secrets of Stonehenge continue to lure men to their side in an apparent vain effort to reveal their true meaning, the GUIDESTONES have no hidden mystery. The GUIDESTONES, erected in Elberton, Elbert County, Georgia, United States of America, unveiled on March 22, 1980, have etched into their hard granite stones a "simple message" to mankind, and it is presented in eight different languages so the majority of mankind may be able to understand its message. The sponsors of the GUIDESTONES expect these granite giants to endure and pass along their "message" for hundreds of years.

Dedication — March 22, 1980

An estimated 400 persons gathered on a windswept hill March 22, 1980, for the unveiling and dedication of the "GUIDESTONES." The keynote speaker was U.S. Congressman Doug Barnard who represents the Georgia Tenth Congressional District. The Congressman told those assembled for the first public viewing of the massive monument that though "no one will agree with everything on it, these (the Guides) are definite guidelines which can be applied to life." Others participating included Elberton Granite Association Executive Vice President William A. "Bill" Kelly, CAE, who served as Master of Ceremonies; and John Dianis, CAE, Executive Vice President of the Monument Builders of North America.
"Guidestones" Facts

WEIGHTS AND DIMENSIONS

Overall Height .................. 19 ft., 3 in.
Amount of Granite ............. 951 Cubic Feet
Weight (Grand Total) .......... 237,746 pounds, or approximately 119 tons
Four Upright Stones .......... 6 ft., 6 in. wide; 16 ft., 4 in. high; 1 ft., 7 in. thick.
One Center Stone ............... Weight 42,437 lbs. each (avg.) 169,750 lbs. total
   (the Gnomon Stone) 3 ft., 3 in. wide; 16 ft., 4 in. high; 1 ft., 7 in. thick.
One Cap Stone ................ Weight 20,957 lbs.
Four Support Stones .......... 6 ft., 6 in. wide; 9 ft., 8 in. long; 1 ft., 7 in. thick.
   (Bases) 7 ft., 4 in. long; 2 ft., 0 in. wide; 1 ft., 4 in. thick.
   Weight 24,832 lbs.
One Support Stone ............. Weight 4,875 lbs. each (avg.) 19,500 lbs. total
   (Base) 4 ft., 2½ in. long; 2 ft., 2 in. wide; 1 ft., 7 in. thick.
   Weight 2,707 lbs.
Description of Lettering ....... Over 4,000 sandblasted letters, each approximately 4 in. high.

Astronomical Aspects

- The four large upright blocks pointing outward are oriented to the limits of the migration of the moon during the course of a year.

- An eye-level, oblique hole is drilled from the South to the North side of the center, Gnomon stone so that the North Star is always visible, symbolizing constancy and orientation with the forces of nature.

- A slot is cut in the middle of the Gnomon stone to form a "window" which aligns with the positions of the rising sun at the Summer and Winter Solstices and at the Equinox so that the noon sun shines to indicate noon on a curved line.

- The capstone includes a calendar of sorts where sunlight beams through a 7/8 in. hole at noon and shines on the South face of the center stone. As the sun makes its travel cycle, the spot beamed through the hole can tell the day of the year at noon each day. Allowances are made because of variations between standard time and sun time to set the beam of sunlight at an equation of time.

- The site, 7.2 miles north of Elberton on Highway 77, was chosen because it commands a view to the East and to the West and is within the range of the Summer and Winter sunrises and sunsets. The stones are oriented in those directions.

Map To The Georgia Guidestones

LOCATED:
ADJACENT TO DOUBLE 7 FARM
ON STATE HIGHWAY 77
7.2 MILES NORTH OF ELBERTON
7.8 MILES SOUTH OF HARTWELL

PYRAMID MANUFACTURING PLANT SITE OF
QUARRY SITE ELBERTON GRANITE FINISHING CORPORATION
The Georgia Guidestones

Map to The Georgia Guidestones

7.8 Miles South of Hartwell
7.2 Miles North of Elberton
On State Highway 77
Adjacent to Double J Farm
Located: Georgia Guidestones
As in any industry, there are those who stand out for their exemplary craftsmanship and the ability to see a project unfold and tell the story even before the actual work is done. Elberton Granite Finishing Corporation is this type of extraordinary, farsighted organization, committed to the future of the memorial industry.