

Green Mountain Insurance Company, Inc.

Berlin, VT

The Beginning and The First President

The Company was incorporated in 1962 under the laws of the State of Vermont. The Company is the successor to the Green Mountain Mutual Fire Insurance Company. In 1962, a conversion from the mutual plan of operation to that of a capital stock basis was completed.

In 1970, all of the outstanding capital stock was purchased from Merchants Mutual Insurance Company by Concord General Mutual Insurance Company. Today, the Company writes primarily commercial, personal auto and homeowner coverage. The Company operates in New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, and Vermont. The Company is also licensed in New York (Admitted 03/04/1997), but is not currently writing any business.

Green Mountain Mutual Fire Insurance Company (from VT archives verbatim)

The company was incorporated under the laws of Vermont July 27, 1916, but was not licensed and did not commence business until June 2, 1919. It was incorporated as a mutual and has a guaranteed capital. Its authorized capital is \$200,000 of which \$50,000 has been subscribed and paid in.

FIRE INSURANCE SECTION

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GREEN MOUNTAIN MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, Montpelier, Vt. Organized 1917: guaranty capital, \$50,000. H. J. M. Jones, president; G. L. Blanchard, Chas. H. Schoff, vice-presidents; W. A. Ellis, secretary; E. H. Deavitt, treasurer.

The stock, par value \$50 per share, was sold at \$55 thus providing a surplus of \$5,000. There was no organization expense.

The company writes fire and marine business, fire policies being written under three plans, namely, first, stock; second, mutual cash premium and premium note; third, mutual cash premium with assessment liability equal to and in addition to premium paid. At the present time the company is licensed only in the State of Vermont. The company has writing agents who are paid commissions and write at tariff rates, except policies written on the mutual cash premium plan with premium notes taken.

The Green Mountain Mutual Fire Insurance Company was founded by H. J. M. Jones of Montpelier, Vermont. The founder was a successful granite business owner and civic leader.

Childhood

Hugh John Morris Jones' father, Hugh Jones, was a Lieutenant serving his second enlistment in Company C, 209th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, Army of the Potomac, when he was killed at the Battle of Fort Stedman in Petersburg, Virginia, only two weeks before the surrender of General Lee at Appomattox. Six children, four boys and two girls, were left fatherless; the oldest, Marshall Watkins, 12, down to the youngest, Hugh John Morris, a baby of six weeks whom the father had never seen. Now that Hugh Jones' army pay was to cease, it was necessary for Marshall- then in the sixth grade - to leave school and go to work. Eventually, the other three brothers did the same.

Jones Brothers Company

The brothers eventually founded a granite wholesaling business called Jones Brothers Company and brother Hugh J. M. entered the employ of the Company as a traveling salesman. In 1886 after four years of strict wholesaling, Jones Brothers purchased a Dark quarry, and the stock and equipment of a granite cutting plant at Barre, Vermont, renting the land and building. This plant, known as the Mackie & Simpson Plan, was located on Granite Street, Barre. The quarry was situated on Millstone Hill, nearly three miles from Barre and about a thousand feet above the city. It required utmost care to see that the heavy loads did not go too fast or roll over the steep embankments, but it is said there never was a serious accident to any horse or driver.

H. J. M Jones took pride in being an active civic leader in the greater Barre area and in the State of Vermont. Although the city of Barre counted Hugh J. M. Jones a resident, Jones actually resided in Montpelier.

As Vice President of Jones Brothers Company, Hugh J.M. Jones attended numerous local, state and national granite producers and dealers association meetings. He was a director of the Barre Granite Manufacturers' Association. Jones often was called upon to provide a talk about the state of granite business in Barre and in one meeting used that opportunity to impress upon the attendees the role of civic duty. He said "the dealer should assume his proper place in civic endeavors and take a position of leadership in the progressive activities of his community."

Civic Leader

In September 1917, Vermont Governor Horace F. Graham appointed Hugh J.M. Jones Chairman of a committee to study means to obtain more coal for Vermont residents. There was genuine

concern that Vermont residents would not have enough coal for the upcoming winter creating conditions in which residents would freeze and businesses shut down. Apparently, the lack of coal in the state was due to coal dealers not cooperating with one another and making a desperate situation. Jones was called upon to bring the dealers together and seek their cooperation in bringing more coal to Vermont. Clearly, Jones' work within the Granite Manufacturers Association won him high praise from elected officials who saw his skill and leadership could be leveraged for the benefit of all Vermonters.

The coal dealers assembled in Burlington at the urgent call of Jones' committee. They pledged their loyalty and full cooperation to the committee and that various sections of the state would quickly obtain more coal. Prompt and adequate shipments of coal into Vermont were ordered. Jones commented "The spirit of the meeting was patriotic, enthusiastic and most promising. What is now needed is to get all of the dealers in a like frame of mind and drop at once any differences of prejudice and come together."

In Governor Horace F. Graham's farewell address of 1919 he specifically made mention of Hugh J.M. Jones and his service as an appointed Federal Fuel Administrator. Interestingly, it was in this address as well that Governor Graham affirmed the creation of the Office of Insurance Commissioner which also included the role of fire warden. Graham said "I believe this law gives general satisfaction. Insurance companies, foreign and domestic, contribute annually well towards two hundred thousand dollars of our revenue and are entitled to a state department."

Association Leader and Voice of Barre Manufacturing

Not surprising H. J. M. Jones was considered a favorite throughout the state for the next governor of Vermont as reported at the annual Retail Monument Dealers' Association meeting in St. Paul Minnesota. Mayor Lawrence Hodgdon provided a keynote address that resonated deeply with Jones. Hodgdon's talk was to emphasize the necessity of brotherly cooperation in business. He illustrated his points by going back to the foundation of the American government citing that it was not established by "knockers and grouches", but its greatness was brought out through a spirit that could not be conquered by adversity. When it was his turn to provide his report H. J. M. Jones thanked the mayor and extended a cordial invitation to him to come to Vermont in the summer time and that he personally would be glad to show them the paradise of New England with its lofty mountains, its fertile valleys and its beautiful lakes and streams.

The national association discussion topics included investigating and working out details of a Mutual Fire and Compensation Insurance proposition.

The Granite Manufacturers' Mutual Indemnity Co., Inc., was organized of which H. J. M. Jones was elected President, for the purpose of carrying insurance upon persons employed in the

granite industry. As reported "This is a cooperative insurance matter." In a meeting years later it was voted that all members carrying insurance in the Company purchase a supply of protective eye-glasses and sell to the workmen at cost price due to the increasing number of eye fatalities in the industry.

It is well known, challenges abound even in paradise.

Establishing Green Mountain Mutual Fire

We hypothesize that Green Mountain was formed following Granite Indemnity to provide fire and marine insurance to the granite industry as Granite Indemnity provided compensation insurance coverage for the workforce.

It was reported that the granite plant of Genest & Beaulieu, Barre, VT suffered a fire loss of \$600. The monument plant of Goodrich, Prazzi & Masciardi, Hallowell, ME burned and it was reported that there was no insurance on the property.

The granite manufacturing plant of N. Pelaggi, Northfield, VT was struck by lightning and practically destroyed by fire. The firm suffered a loss of from \$150,000 to \$200,000 covered by insurance of \$90,000.

St. Albans, Vt., Loss Under \$10,000

It is now estimated that the property loss on the barn and silo of Walter Seymour, destroyed by fire of unknown origin at St. Albans, Vt., July 29, will be about \$8,000 instead of \$15,000, as at first reported. The buildings were unprotected. Insurance of \$9,700 was involved as follows: Vermont Mutual, \$3,000, State Mutual and Green Mountain Mutual, \$500 each, on buildings; State Mutual and Green Mountain Mutual, \$2,350 each and Vermont Mutual, \$1,000, on contents. The loss has been adjusted for \$5,234.

\$17,000 Barn Fire at St. Johnsbury, Vt.

The large barn, one of the most modern and best equipped in the state, on the farm of Dr. John M. Allen at St. Johnsbury, Vt., was destroyed by fire November 3, with a property loss of \$17,000, involving \$11,600 of insurance. Thirty-two registered Holstein cattle were saved as was considerable farm machinery. The St. Johnsbury fire department was at the place five minutes after the blaze was discovered at 12.45 P. M., but there was no available water. The blaze was caused either by sparks from a chimney or spontaneous combustion.

Insurance on barn: Green Mountain Mutual, \$7,000; Vermont Mutual, \$3,000; total, \$10,000. On contents, tools and produce, Vermont Mutual, \$1,600.

1922 Insurance News Archive

Vermont Fire Agency Appointments

Fireman's Fund—Benjamin A. Sumner, Montpelier.
Green Mountain Mutual—H. M. Richardson, East Orange.
Holyoke Mutual—Frank I. Washington, Derby Line.
Home Fire & Marine—John Kearney, St. Albans.
Vermont Mutual—Chas. E. White, Corinth.

1922 Insurance News Archive

Jones Bros. Co., of Boston, Mass., and Barre, Vermont, had the misfortune of having their exhibit of granite work lost between Detroit and St. Louis, so that it did not arrive. But their space in the Coliseum was comfortably furnished as a rest parlor. Hon. H. J. M. Jones, supported by the sales staff kept open house with a continuous reception.

1920 American Stone Trade



Hugh M. Jones

Jones assembled a talented group of business leaders and industry veterans to help manage Green Mountain. The secretary and managing underwriter was William A. Ellis and formerly of the Vermont Mutual Fire Insurance Company. He had seventeen years' experience.

The treasurer of the company was Mr. Edward H. Deavitt, former State Treasurer and Insurance Commissioner of Vermont. The Board of Trustees included George L. Blanchard, President, Capital Savings Bank and Trust, Montpelier; Luther A. Cobb, President, Island Pond National Bank; Sanford A. Daniels, State Senator and insurance agent from Brattleboro; A. Barber Noyes, President, Passumpsic Savings Bank and Trust Co; E. L. Walker, insurance agent from Bellows Falls; and several other prominent banking and woolen manufacturing leaders. It should be noted that Mr. Deavitt would later serve as President of Green Mountain following Jones' passing.

COMMISSIONER BROWN RESIGNS

Vermont Insurance Department Head Will Become Underwriting Manager of Green Mountain Mutual Fire

Hon. Joseph G. Brown, for the past five years insurance commissioner of the state of Vermont, forwarded his resignation to the governor on Tuesday to take effect on October 1. He retires from an active career as head of the insurance department of the state to become underwriting manager of the Green Mountain Mutual Fire Company of Montpelier, a new company organized some three years ago, and will also give his time to the development of his local agency in Montpelier.

Mr. Brown was born and educated in Montpelier. He entered the insurance business in 1881 with his father, who had established an insurance agency in that city in 1867. He succeeded to the business of the agency on the death of his father.

He served as mayor of Montpelier, was postmaster for two terms, having been appointed by Presidents Roosevelt and Taft, and was for seven years secretary of the local Board of Trade. He was appointed insurance commissioner of the state in 1917 and in 1919 was honored by election as president of the National Convention of Insurance Commissioners. He is a member of local Masonic and Odd Fellow bodies.

William A. Ellis, the present underwriting manager of the Green Mountain Mutual Fire, whom Mr. Brown succeeds, has resigned to take effect October 1.

Thomas C. Cheney, a local agent of Morrisville Vt., is being prominently mentioned as the possible successor of Mr. Brown as insurance commissioner of the state.

September 22, 1922 - The Standard

In the first full year of Green Mountain Mutual Fire Insurance Company's operation in 1920, Gross premiums written were \$50,398.95 and paid reinsurance costs of \$24,938 plus returned premiums of \$7,634.71 produced net premiums written \$17,826.24. With assessments of \$11,294.02, interest of \$2,5062.15, rent of \$480, total income was \$32,162.41. Regarding disbursements, net losses paid was \$10,966.95, underwriting expenses \$6,776.02, dividends to policyholders \$460.40, dividends on stock \$1,000 plus other disbursements of \$3,299.05 cumulated \$22,511.42 in total disbursements.

The Statesman

Some 35 years after Jones entered the granite business and the commencement of Green Mountain he was called upon to deliver a message from the granite producers to the national dealer's association meeting held in Indiana. He said:

“Most of the men who were in business here when I started out to sell granite have gone, but I am pleased to see before me the sons and the grandsons of several old friends that I called upon then. Those men are deserving of a great deal of praise for the splendid foundation they laid. You young men of today have a greater opportunity than your fathers and grandfathers had. It is up to you to take advantage of it and put the business where it belongs. I want to see the dealer of today a director in his local bank and a prominent member of his chamber of commerce. The minute he becomes an influential man in his community he has lifted the plane of the business to a higher level.

In regard to our raising our prices, we came to the point where we had to do this or go into bankruptcy. Our costs kept rising rapidly and unexpectedly. It was impossible to notify you in advance of a condition we could at no time foresee ourselves. If we had raised our prices earlier we would not have been forced to make such frequent raises.”

Hugh J. M. Jones and other granite manufacturers faced labor unrest throughout this period. He addressed the issue at a national association meeting explaining that no one has insight in what the outcome will be. Labor had slowed production leading to costly delays in industries and construction projects dependent upon granite.

In a letter to his association dealing with the cost of labor and production Jones once again displays his statesman-like approach of cooperation amongst parties with different needs yet linked to a common purpose. In a September, 1922 address to the Granite Association he said he thought the New England producers very generally favored collective bargaining. His letter follows.

Increased Production Solution of H. C. of L.

How Labor Can Co-operate in Reducing High Costs — An Armistice Between Capital and Labor Would Be Beneficial

By H. J. M. JONES

NUMEROUS articles have been written with reference to the H. C. of L. Various remedies have been suggested but most of them even if applied, the effect would be temporary. During normal conditions when there has been an over-production the labor unions advocated the shortening of the hours of labor. They really had an excellent argument as it gave employment to more of their men; in other words there were not enough jobs to go around and shorter hours made more demand for their labor.

Our conditions today are reversed and we find an under-production in most everything that we produce in this country. Boycotts through the use of overalls, meatless and wheatless days will help for the moment, but they are only a "drop in the bucket." Some country must provide some way to rebuild the great loss sustained by the late World War. Our country cannot accomplish this alone. Never in our history has America had the opportunity that is facing her today. A large demand exists for all our products both at home and abroad. We have the facilities for most any demand that is made but our production does not gain.

We must increase production and it cannot be done by machinery alone, but with the co-operation of labor we could speed up at least 50 per cent. Today there is no non-employment; wages, incomes and profits are larger than ever before. Taxes are high, our currency is inflated, and we are all traveling on the road to destruction. Is it not time to stop and reflect? Many economists have stated that labor was only from 60 per cent. to 75 per cent. efficient. The basis of costs in most industries is labor. If labor is 80 per cent. efficient, then 20 per cent. of the cost of labor is inefficiency, and is a part of the cost of production. Add to this 20 per cent. for a manufacturer's profit and the result is 24 per cent., which represents inflation, water or whatever you desire to name it. There is another inflation because the dealer wants a profit on his cost and he adds another 20 per cent. to the 24 per cent., and



H. J. M. JONES.
Barre, Vt.

the consumer pays the entire bill.

If the inefficiency of labor is 40 per cent. as described by an eminent writer and economist, one can readily see one cause for the H. C. of L. Personally I do not believe that there is any concerted action by labor to reduce their efficiency, and if it does exist the cause is carelessness or thoughtlessness. If labor and capital would call an armistice for six months or a year with no increase of wages and no increase in the price of any commodity, and labor agree to work at least one hour more per day at the regular rate per hour, then further resolve to put into their work all the efficiency they possess we would increase our production to such an extent that not only would it decrease all prices, but it would place America far ahead of all nations.

Labor would be receiving more wages on account of the extra time worked and in a short time pay less for everything they purchased. At the expiration of the agreement labor could resume regular working hours or if production had not increased sufficiently they could extend the time for another period or until such time as the increased production would affect the market downward.

There may be inefficiency with the employer, and during the armistice he should agree to place efficiency at the head of his duties. Under-production is here and the only remedy to lower the H. C. of L. is to produce, and you cannot produce without work.

SOME SUGGESTIONS THAT MAY HELP YOU

A subscriber to **GRANITE MARBLE & BRONZE** recently inquired the amount allowed by the Government for memorials to Civil War veterans.

The Government allows nothing for a memorial for a Civil War veteran. Upon application, however, the Government will supply a marble headstone, about 30 inches high, and with certain lettering on it, free of charge.

Hugh Jones married Dell B. Brandom of Mt. Sterling, Ohio on July 9, 1899. They had four children: Robert B.; Marjory D.; Hugh Brandom and George L. The Jones Homestead at 100 East State Street has been registered with National Park Service National Register of Historic Places.

NPS Form 1WXXH
(M8)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

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5. Hugh J. M. Jones House (100 East State Street). 1907.

Set high above East State Street on one of the largest lots in the city, this 2 1/2 story, brick house, with a hipped roof and gabled dormers on all four sides, is an imposing example of the Colonial Revival style of architecture. Its rough-faced granite foundation, entry steps, belt course, and window sills, keystones, and corner blocks reinforce the substantial feeling of the building.

Projecting from the center bay of the symmetrical, 5-bay wide front (south) facade is a flat-roofed entry porch supported by paired fluted Ionic columns and surmounted by an iron balcony railing. The front doorway is surrounded by leaded sidelights and transom lights. Above the porch is a Palladian-like doorway with a fanlight and double-hung sidelights. With the exception of two small casement windows with diamond-shaped panes flanking the center bay on the second story, and the tripartite attic dormer window, the front windows are 6-over-9. On the east facade, a flat-roofed, enclosed, sun porch with multipaned, triple-hung sash, extends along first story, also crowned by an iron railing. Two, large, brick end chimneys rise on the outside of the east facade. The exterior southern chimney has corbeled granite steps. Quarter-round fanlights and a transom-topped casement window light the attic dormer. A steel fire escape stairway leads from the attic dormer doorway to the porch roof.

The west facade is 2 bays wide with 8-over-2 windows and a centered exterior chimney trimmed with granite. Quarter-round fanlights flank the chimney on the attic dormer. The north facade has 6-over-2 and 8-over-2 windows and a central 2-story wing with a screened porch.

From the southwest corner of the property along East State Street, cut-granite stairway with capped, granite, piers and capped, granite, retaining walls leads up to a path which extends up the steep hill to the house.

The significance of the house and the bold use of local granite reflect the interests of its first owner, Hugh J. M. Jones, an owner of the Jones Brothers Granite Quarry in nearby Barre. Also president of the Green Mountain Fire Insurance Company, Jones constructed the house in 1907. He lived here until his death in the late 1920 's and was survived by his wife, Dell, who continued to occupy the house through the 1940's, The Jones family sold the property to Vermont College around 1960, but it was later converted back to a private residence.

National Register of Historic Places

Mr. Jones died in 1929.

out.

At Denver

Memorial Craftsmen of Colorado will hold their annual meeting at Denver on February 11 and 12, with headquarters at the Albany Hotel. President O. C. Watson, of Denver, says "We have not completed our program yet, but will send it to you complete for publication during January." All the retailers of the

to be present.

OBITUARY

Hugh J. M. Jones, of Montpelier, Vt., died suddenly in Boston, on January 2, while on a business trip and a visit to his brother, Seward W. Jones, in the Boston office of the company of which

In the field of finance and insurance, he was a power, being a vice president of the Quarry Savings Bank in Barre, and president and founder of a mutual fire insurance company in Montpelier, and was one of the most active organizers of the Barre Granite Manufacturers Indemnity Corporation, besides his numerous official connections in the group of quarry companies controlled by the Jones Brothers Co. He was also

American Stone Trade, Volume 31 American Stone Trade., 1930