

Delano's Quarry

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Ira Delano's Rocklin Granite Company operated Rocklin's largest Quarry in the late 19th and early 20th centuries

According to state records Rocklin was the principal granite producing point in the Sacramento Valley in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Rocklin's largest and most financially-successful quarry operation of those times was Ira Delano's Rocklin Granite Company. Delano acquired the quarry for \$13,000 from the estate of Welshman quarry operator G. Griffith in 1889 and quickly benefited from the high quality and easy accessibility of the quarry's granite. The quarry could yield granite slabs for monuments that were 16 feet

long, 20 feet wide and 12 inches thick. Delano's heyday came after San Francisco's April 1906 earthquake when his operations supplied curbstones, some of them 20 feet long, to line San Francisco's rebuilt streets.

Rocklin's granite industry saw a steady decline between 1910 and 1920. Engineers were perfecting the manufacture of cement based concrete during this period and an extended quarry-worker strike closed half of Rocklin's quarries permanently in 1915. Delano survived the 1915 strike but closed his quarry in 1916.

In 1957 Rocklin historian, Uno Hebuck, researched and documented the locations of 61 Rocklin quarries; many of these are still visible in Rocklin's downtown landscape. According to Rocklin historian Ruben Ruhkala possibly only five or six of the 61 produced granite after 1920. One closed in the late 1920s but reopened in the 1930s and survived until 2005. It was Rocklin's last surviving quarry.

Delano's quarry pit was 100 feet deep and covered an area of about one acre at the surface. The City of Rocklin bought the pit in 1941 for \$10.00 and used it as the city dump for about 30 years. Today it underpins a parking lot and motel on the south side of the intersection of Rocklin Road and Granite Drive.



Delano's Quarry workers in 1911

The gentleman in the lower right holding the child in his lap is Sam Renaldi who succeeded George Willard as Rocklin's town marshal in 1913. Renaldi killed saloon owner Uledi Holmes in a February 18, 1914 gunfight at Blackwell and Hendrickson's Livery Stable, immediately east of the site of today's Rocklin Train Station. Renaldi died of his wounds the next day and is memorialized at the Police Officers Memorial in Sacramento as the first Rocklin police officer to die in the line of duty.