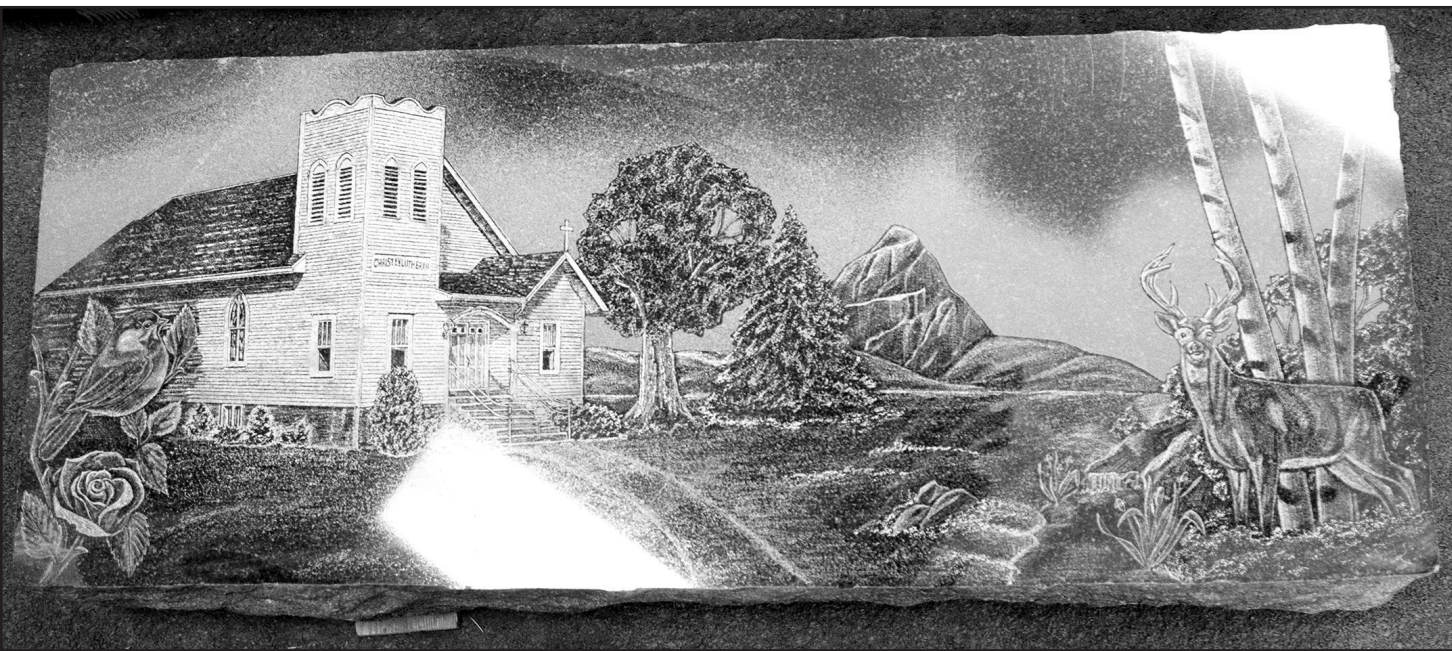


# Schum traditions - lasting generations



This amazing etching was drawn by artist extraordinaire Dinah Schum, who draws what will be etched into a tombstone per the purchaser's preferences. She generally works from photos.

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until around 1963 when Andrew Jr.'s health deteriorated due to arthritis and he sold his share to Benno.

However, by 1944, the hammer and chisel were out in favor of carbide tools. In the late 1960s Schum's phased out manufacturing because technology could provide a monument ready for etching much cheaper than purchasing slabs to saw and polish. "Frank Schum was the last of the good stone cutters," explains Sandy's husband, Jack Troth.

By the 1990s granite was primarily imported from China, Africa and India and the stone went through a sandblasting process using aluminum oxide.

The Troths bought the business from

Benno in 1978 — the third generation to carry on a company whose roots already ran deep into the fabric of Spencer County. "I thought we'd never get out of debt," Sandy says with a shudder.

Jack and Sandy sold the business to their two children in 2015. Susan (Troth) Teaford and Chris Troth grew up in Schum Monuments, just as their mother had. "It's better not to just hand a business over to someone," Jack opined.

Susan's son Nick joined the company and makes the fifth generation. Andrew Schum Sr. was his great-great-grandfather.

While today they purchase monuments ready to etch, "We do our own work while a lot of them [other monument companies] don't," Jack notes.

A tour through the Schum Monument building is like a journey through history.

On this particular day Chris is busy cutting letters to be etched into the stone. A wall of metal letters behind him helps the process, although Jack explains that now, with computer fonts, the options are endless. Many companies computer cut the stones but not at Schum's, where they still hand cut and sandblast. "There's a big difference in quality," Jack explains.

Nearby is the sandblasting room, its floor layered in a thick coating of sandblasted particles.

"This is where the [hand cut] roses or 3-D detail comes out," Jack shares.

Yes, hand cut and positively stunning! Dinah (Schatz) Schum designs — by hand — the incredible artwork etched onto many of the monuments, as did her late husband, John Schum. Her talent is expansive and very apparent from the unique custom work she does to add that special touch that marks a loved one's final resting place.

Equipment from the earliest days is still very visible throughout the building and Jack shares the purpose of each item.

Today, many folks ask for granite mined in the United States, and Schum's offers all sorts of headstones from Wisconsin, Vermont, South Dakota, Pennsylvania, Minnesota and Georgia, where Andrew Schum Sr. bought some of his earliest stones.

They still stock stones from India, China and Africa, and according to Jack, the preferred jet black stones generally come from overseas.

Whatever the preference there are hundreds to choose from.

In addition to the traditional work they do creating tombstones and monuments, the family members are often called upon to create items of civic interest, such as the Veteran's Monument in Huntingburg and, most recently, an inscribed stone for the new flagpole in Dale (see related article) or

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## Schum genealogy

Andrew Schum Sr. was born to Saturnin and Marie Magdalena Heichelbech.

Andrew's grandparents emigrated to the United States when his parents were children. Saturnin was baptized the day he was born, on December 1, 1833, in the village of Mittelaschenbach, Germany. His descendants have in their possession his baptismal certificate from Hofaschenbach-Ruessen Catholic Parish. His mother, Marie Magdalena Heichelbech, was born in France to Joseph and Anna (Baraschek) Heichelbech.

Saturnin's parents, by the way were Martin (born December 2, 1797 • died September 14, 1866) and Marie Anna (Trapp) Schum (born January 20, 1805 • died December 22, 1876) of Scharlau, Germany. They are both buried in St. Ferdinand Cemetery. When Saturnin was about three, his parents, for whatever reason, brought their young family to the United States. Saturnin was the owner of a flour mill and his father had been a farmer.

Willing to go back one generation further?

Martin's parents were Johannes and Catharina (Treibert) Schum and Marie Anna's were Johannes Caspar and Anna C. (Rausch) Trapp.

Today, instead of getting there by horse and buggy, customers can visit the company website, [schummonuments.com](http://schummonuments.com).

We hope you enjoy the  
Dale Fall Fest

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