

Tripp native James Hieb authors book about the sandstone quarries of Lorain County, Ohio

A book by a former Tripp native about sandstone quarries in Ohio will be published soon.

James Hieb authored the book, "*Sandstone Center of the World: Images & Stories of Quarry Life in Amherst, South Amherst, & Lorain County*" that will debut in June. It chronicles 160 years of a quarry industry that was the largest of its kind in the world. Sandstone from the Amherst area has, and continues to be used in building projects around the United States and Canada.

This region, known as the "Sandstone Center of the World," has quarry beginnings in the early 1800s. During the height of its heyday, several dozen quarries were

active with over 2,000 individuals employed. At one point, Bob Hope's father worked at the quarries as a stonemason and master carver.

"When I left South Dakota to move to Ohio, I settled in a small town similar to Tripp with one big difference—the local industry was quarrying rather than agriculture," said Hieb. "Many families in north-east Ohio have a quarry story to tell and the stories I have heard the past 15 years played a large role in making this book a reality."

Stories told by Foyster Matlock, grandfather of Hieb's wife, Christa, are featured in the book's introduction. Matlock, 93, spent 30 years at the Cleveland Quarries and is one of the oldest living retired quarry

workers.

For more information, including pictures, go online to www.quarrytown.net.

Hieb received a Bachelor of Science degree from The University of South Dakota, Vermillion, and a Master's degree from Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio. He moved to Lorain County in 1991 and now serves as special projects director for the Marble Institute of America, a trade association serving the natural stone industry.

Hieb is also an adjunct faculty member at Lorain County Community College. He lives in South Amherst with his wife, Christa, and two sons, Kyle and Chad.