

The Georgia Guidestones



**Bombed...
Demolished...
GONE
FOREVER**

1979

June

On a late Friday afternoon, a man who went by the name "R.C. Christian" entered Joe Fendley Sr.'s office on Tate Street to ask "the cost of building a large monument to conservation," according to the Elberton Granite Association.

1980

March 22

The Guidestones were dedicated in front of a crowd of 400 people. Notable people at the dedication included U.S. Congressman Doug Barnard and John Dianis, the executive vice president of the Monument Builders of America, according to a booklet by the Elberton Granite Association.

2008

Nov. 19

The Star reported that the Guidestones were vandalized and local authorities offered a \$1,000 reward for information leading to an arrest.

2011

Feb. 3

Brad Meltzer's "Apocalypse in Georgia" episode of the "Decoded" series featuring the Guidestones aired on The History Channel.

2017

Aug. 21

An estimated 1,000 people flocked to the Guidestones to view the solar eclipse.

2022

July 6

Just after 4 a.m., an individual left an explosive device at the Guidestones that exploded, destroying one of the wings of the monument. Later in the afternoon, the Elbert County Board of Commissioners, who owned the property, made the decision to demolish the entire structure due to "safety reasons" and after a request from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

A 'message and mystery for mankind'

By Rose Scoggins,
Mark Wells and Dawson Baker

Nearly half a century ago, a series of events led to the creation of the most mysterious and grand displays of Elbert County's illustrious granite industry.

Although not as historic as Nancy Hart's Cabin or Dan Tucker's Grave, the Georgia Guidestones stood tall on Elbert County's highest hill, a beacon for tourism and the topic of books, news stories, magazine covers, documentaries and conspiracy theories.

"The opinion on it ranged from the holiest spot on Earth to a satanic symbol," Hudson Cone, who worked for the Elberton Granite Association (EGA) from 1973 to 2006 said.

Recounts of how the 19-foot tall granite markers were erected mostly begin the same way — on a warm afternoon in June 1979.

Joe Fendley, president of Elberton Granite Finishing Company Inc., was greeted in his Tate Street office by a "neatly dressed man" who was looking to purchase a monument.

The man went by the pseudonym "Robert C. Christian."

"Since everyone else in the office was busy, Fendley decided to talk to the stranger himself and explained that his company does not sell directly to the public, but only on a wholesale basis," according to the history of the day from "The Georgia Guidestones" publication by Fendley's company. "Fendley admitted that his first reaction to Mr. Christian was not very good, but after listening for about 20 minutes and learning the massive size of the monument he wished to purchase and have erected, Fendley decided he should take the man seriously."

Christian, who would not reveal his real name to Fendley, described a monument that would be dedicated to conservation and would leave behind a message for those at the time and for years to come.

"It was larger than anything that they had ever done before in Elberton. [Fendley] became kind of skeptical about it," Chris Kubas, current executive vice president of the Elberton Granite Association said.

Fendley pointed Christian in the direction of Granite City Bank in order to begin the financial transaction portion of the monument-building process. At the bank, he met Wyatt C. Martin, the bank's president.

"Christian told Martin that he represented a group of individuals who had planned this project for more than 20 years, and that each one of the group was a loyal American who believed in God and country," according to the "The Georgia Guidestones" publication. In order for the bank to handle the transaction, Martin told Christian he would have to reveal his real name along with other identifying information. According to recounts of the moment, Christian made Martin swear on the Bible not to reveal his identity to anyone.

After Martin made the vow, Christian revealed the information.

"Martin is the only individual in Elberton to know the true name of Christian and was sworn to secrecy of the name for the remainder of his life, according to information given to reporters earlier



Left, workmen take cables loose as the Guidestones are emplaced. The rock-pitched finish on the sides is in accordance with "Mr. Christian's" instructions that the finish conform as nearly as possible to the natural state of the granite as it is quarried. Right, during the waning twilight of March 12, 1980, the large capstone, was set into place to complete the 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. (Photos and information from The Georgia Guidestones pamphlet from the Elberton Granite Association)



Less than a year after a man going by the name of "R. C. Christian" approached Joe Fendley Sr. about building a monument dedication to conservation, the Georgia Guidestones were unveiled and dedicated during a ceremony March 22, 1980. According to the Elberton Granite Association, an estimated 400 people attended the dedication. (Photo and information from The Georgia Guidestones pamphlet from the Elberton Granite Association)



A large crowd gathered at the dedication of the Georgia Guidestones March 22, 1980. The event was broadcast by WFBC TV/4, now WYFF 4. (Photo courtesy of Mat Hunt)

this year," a March 25, 1980, article from The Elberton Star reported.

The cost of the project, which was reported to be high due to the size and scope of the work, was never revealed.

"I have no idea why he chose me or our company for the project," Fendley answered during an interview for the Feb. 29, 1980, edition of The Star. "I enjoy the mystery of it."

After Christian shared the details for the monument, work began.

Fendley's Pyramid Quarry provided the Pyramid Blue Granite that were raised up from 114 feet down in the quarry.

Over nine months, the crew working on the monument trimmed away four tons from each stone, according to "The Georgia Guidestones" publication.

Fendley led the crew as the builder, followed by Joe B. Davis as the project superintendent, Jimmy L. Mattox as the quarry superintendent, T.J. (Junior) Brown and Mary Evelyn Brown as draftspersons, David C. Brown Jr. as a draftsman, Horace and Frank Bradford as stonecutters,

Charlie Clamp as the sandblaster, Grady H. Albertson as the erector as owner of Argo Crane Service Inc., Francis Mer-

chant as the "message" interpreter and Cone, who documented the process as photographer for the EGA.

The site of the project, titled The Georgia Guidestone Project, was chosen to be the highest point in Elbert County, on five acres of farmland off of Hartwell Highway. The property was owned by Wayne and Mildred Mullinex.

On Oct. 10, 1979, Mullinex officially deeded the property to Elbert County for \$10.

The deed included conditions that said "no permanent buildings would be erected on these premises." Mullinex,

who raised cattle on the property, could still use the property for grazing rights for him, his children and grandchildren and that "only walk-in gates or similar type gates will be erected."

Less than a year after Christian walked into Fendley's office, the monument was erected and was unveiled in a ceremony March 22, 1980.

"The Guidestones, claimed to be America's answer to England's Stonehenge, were revealed to about 400 per-

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Left, an agent from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation surveys the scene at the Georgia Guidestones early Wednesday morning after an explosion damaged the monument, leaving one of the slabs in a pile of rubble. Right, Emergency Management Agency Director Chuck Almond surveys the scene as the demolished Georgia Guidestones were removed from the site Thursday. (Photos by Scoggins)

‘Domestic terrorism’: Guidestones bombed, demolished

By Rose Scoggins
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An act of ‘domestic terrorism’ took place at the Georgia Guidestones in the early morning hours of July 6, leaving one of the wings of the monument as a pile of rubble and eventually causing the demolition of the entire structure.

Footage showing an unidentified person leaving an explosive at the site was released by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) in the late afternoon of July 7.

Previous footage was released Wednesday afternoon following the incident that shows the explosion and a vehicle leaving the scene, both time stamped around 4:03 a.m.

“No one was injured,” the GBI said in a statement along with the videos and photos. “For safety reasons, the structure has been completely demolished.”

Elbert County Board of Commissioners Chairman Lee Vaughn said the explosion caused the capstone of the monument to be “lifted” and was “slammed back down,” causing damage that would have affected the stability of the rest of the monument once removed. Other visible damage could be seen on the center slab.

“It was a dangerous situation and then the GBI agent [said] they had done all they could with their discovery, except they had to dig around the impact crater,” Vaughn said. “He did not want his guys in there digging around messing in that area because he felt like it was unstable and it was going to come down.”

Vaughn said it was also a potential safety issue for citizens who might try to “scavenge” the property for souvenirs.

“We knew that was going to happen,” Vaughn said. “The safest thing for us to do was tear it down and that was at the request of the GBI.”

While at the site, Vaughn said he, commissioners Casey Freeman and Chris Alexander, along with Elbert County Emergency Management Agency Director Chuck Almond, made the decision to remove the monument on the government-owned property.

Commissioners Kenneth Ashworth and Freddie Jones were contacted, Vaughn said, but no official vote was taken as he said they “had to make a decision quick.”

“It was on-the-fly decision making. When the decision was made, they were on the ground in five minutes,” Vaughn said of the road department crew who brought in the county’s equipment to demolish the structure.

The GBI worked the incident for most of the day Wednesday.

The GBI’s bomb disposal unit, along with K-9 units from the Hall and Forsyth County Sheriff’s Offices were called in to help.

While the incident happened just after 4 a.m., Almond said he received a call from the Elbert County E-911 center around 6 a.m. that said the video surveillance footage looked like there was rubble around the monument.

Almond said dispatch notified the Elbert County Sheriff’s Office who went out and closed off Guidestones Road in order to secure the scene.

At 6:47 a.m., a message dispatching the Elbert County Fire Department to the scene was sent out as Almond said the incident was “possibly an explosion.”

As authorities arrived on the scene, the Georgia Department of Transportation, with help from the Georgia State Patrol, eventually closed off Hartwell Highway (Georgia Highway 77) for most of the day as the investigation was conducted.

Almond said the GBI requested further video footage from the surveillance cameras July 7.

“The video is unclear, but agents are still actively working to identify the person leaving the scene after the explosion,” the GBI wrote along with the latest video footage. “We recognize that this case has drawn high public interest with many questions. Our [explosive ordnance disposal] unit made the call to demolish the entire structure since someone destroyed one of the five vertical slabs that held the structure up. This weakened structure created an unsafe environment for investigators to search. This investigation is active and ongoing.”

The GBI declined to release any information about any further releases of video footage.

“This is a domestic terrorist attack on this county. Every single thing we’ve done is for the benefit of Elbert County citizens,” Almond said Thursday. “Good or bad, like it or not. That’s what we’ve done. It’s very unfortunate. We’re in suits and ties and everything picking up pieces so people won’t go onto that property to get hurt.”



Scan the QR code to visit our Facebook page for updated information and footage updates from the GBI.

Commissioners have no plans to rebuild monument

By Rose Scoggins
rscoggins@elberton.com

There is no intent from the Elbert County Board of Commissioners to rebuild the Georgia Guidestones after Wednesday’s bombing. Chairman Lee Vaughn announced during the board’s July 7 work session that they are in talks to deed the land back to the original owner.

“There is a deed clause that basically says if it ever ceases to not have a monument on it, it can be reverted back to the previous owner,” Vaughn said during the meeting. “I believe that’s the course of action we’re going to take. That’s going to be the discussion. We’ll need to have a vote doing that, but it needs to be done.”

After the Guidestones were bombed and then later completely demolished Wednesday, the broken and crumbled slabs of the monument were removed from the site Thursday.

Vaughn said the slabs were re-

moved by “a third party company to a secure location.”

While there has been discussion between the Elbert County Granite Association (EGA) and granite companies throughout the county to rebuild the monument, Vaughn said the county no longer “wants to be involved in owning the monument.”

“Since we’re going to hopefully give the property back to the original owner, if that original owner wants to gift it to EGA or to a private entity to rebuild it, that’s great,” Vaughn said. “The county is probably not going to be involved in rebuilding. We would rather a private entity or the EGA own the Guidestones.”

The Elbert County Sheriff’s Office (ECSCO) provided 24-hour security after the incident, but Elbert County Emergency Management Agency Director Chuck Almond told the board during their meeting that the ECSCO would no longer provide security after July 8.

Almond said the only remain-

ing pieces at the site were the marker that stood on the left side of the monument and the granite slab that allegedly held a time capsule buried six feet beneath.

“I’ve heard from two people that I consider ‘Guidestones experts’ [who] said that there is no time capsule out there,” Vaughn said.

Hudson Cone, a who worked for EGA when the monuments were erected, said Thursday that no time capsule was ever placed at the site.

Due to the lack of security from what Vaughn said is an “already undermanned” sheriff’s office, the county’s road department crew removed the slab early Friday morning.

There was no time capsule buried at the site.

The slab will be taken to the EGA who requested it to be placed in the Elberton Granite Museum.

Vaughn said as of Thursday, the museum had not requested other pieces of the monument.



First responders, members of the Elbert County Emergency Services Incident Response Unit and the Elbert County Fire Department (right) watch as a drone (left) is flown over the Georgia Guidestones in order to give a better view of the damage caused by the original explosion Wednesday morning. (Photos by Scoggins)

Guidestones neighbors recall hearing, feeling explosion

By Dawson Baker
Special to *The Star*

Many people in Elbert and Hart Counties were jarred from their sleep in the early hours of Wednesday, July 6, not knowing that an explosion had occurred just miles away.

An explosion at the Georgia Guidestones occurred around 4 a.m. that resulted in the destruction of one of the four granite pillars, which had stood tall since the 1980s.

About five miles away, in Hart County, Matt Beasley recalled waking up in the early morning hours at his home on Highway 77.

“I looked at my clock and it was 4:04 a.m.” Beasley said. “Something had jarred the house as if someone had slammed our front door real hard. My dog was whimpering so he and I walked around in the yard looking for what would have caused that loud noise.”

After surveying the yard, Beasley returned to his house and went back to bed.

“It was not until the next morning when my daughter called me that I learned the Guidestones had been attacked,” Beasley said.

Wayne and Mildred Mullinex, of Elbert County, also felt the explosion on Thursday morning.

“We felt it here at the house,” Mildred said. “It woke us up. We walked through the house, but we didn’t know what had happened. It was a loud boom, like an explosion. We had a few things fall off the wall. I didn’t even find that until [Thursday] afternoon.”

Peggy Grosse, who lives about half a mile away from the Guidestones, felt the blast as well.

“It shook my house,” Grosse said. “I live in the woods with nothing but trees around me, so I thought a tree had fallen on my house. I used to live in Florida, and I heard the occasional sonic boom, but there are no sonic booms here in Elberton.”

Upon inspection, Grosse was relieved to find that no trees had fallen, so she went back to bed. The next morning, Grosse was running

out to get groceries when she noticed that Guidestones Road had been blocked off. Grosse took a different route than usual Thursday morning. When she got to Highway 77, she noticed all the lights that lined the highway.

“My first thought was the Guidestones had been blown up,” Grosse said.

Grosse said that there has always been some controversy surrounding the Guidestones, but she said she thinks it was exacerbated by comments from former gubernatorial candidate, Kandiss Taylor. Taylor listed the demolition of the Guidestones as one her top priorities if she were to win the Republican ticket for governor.

“It makes me very angry that someone took it upon themselves to bomb the Guidestones,” Grosse said. “You just can’t go around bombing things that you don’t like. It makes me sad because [the Guidestones] were revenue for Elbert County. People would spend money in Elberton or Hartwell and that’s revenue that is going to be lost.”

25 years ago: Couple marries after meeting at the Georgia Guidestones

By Carolyn Cann
Former Editor of The
Elberton Star

It was the kind of stuff dreams are made of. In fact, it was the stuff dreams are made of.

Tonia Sisler and Earl Hershey were married at the Georgia Guidestones in early June a year after they met there, in what they say was no accident.

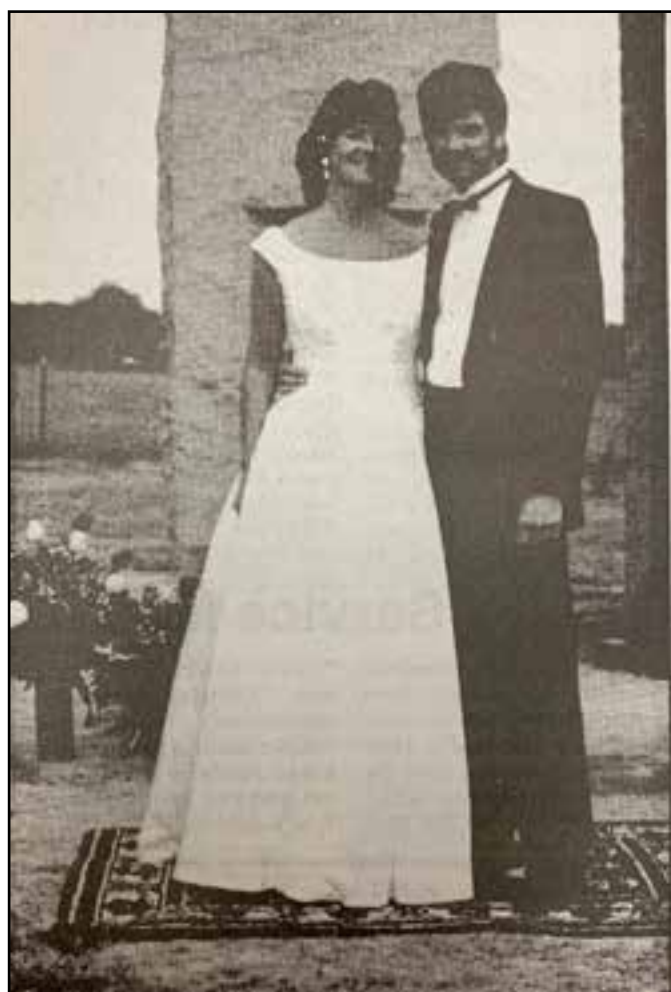
On that sunny afternoon the year before Tonia felt a need to visit the Georgia Guidestones. She packed a picnic lunch and accompanied by her pet dog, drove from Demorest to Elberton to spend a sunny afternoon, waiting for something.

Earl Hershey, who lived near Atlanta, dreamed that he should go to the Guidestones to meet the woman of his dreams. The dream was strong enough not to ignore, so he set out that same afternoon for the Guidestones.

"I got lost and it was dark when I got there. I kept thinking that I had missed my opportunity," he said.

Tonia said she spent the afternoon and evening relaxing and talking with the people who stopped by the Guidestones. When it started getting dark, she said she felt she should stay a while longer.

Just after dark a car pulled up and her dog ran to greet the driver. As



Mr. and Mrs. Earl Hershey posed for pictures shortly after their wedding ceremony at the Georgia Guidestones on June 8. The couple met at the Guidestones and returned there to say their vows.

he got out of the car, she spoke to him and they knew they had been waiting for each other.

A year later, after getting to know and love each other, they decided to hold their wedding on the site where they met and exchanged vows at

the Guidestones.

The wedding was held in front of a group of friends from varying locations, including Tonia's parents who had flown in from their home near the Canadian border in Washington, and Earl's parents who came from his home-



Alleged time capsule disproved

Despite the granite plaque at the Georgia Guidestones advertising a time capsule was allegedly buried at the site, there was no evidence of any buried history when digging occurred Friday morning.

The Elbert County Road Department removed the plaque Friday morning and placed it on a truck to be transported to its new home at the Elberton Granite Museum.

After being removed, the department dug six feet in the ground below where the granite marker was placed as it described a time capsule being buried six feet below.

There was no evidence of previ-

ous digging as Georgia red clay was packed tightly at the bottom.

Elberton Granite Association Executive Vice President Chris Kubas said Friday morning that the granite marker was not placed at the site at the same time the Guidestones were unveiled in 1980. The marker included directions to the granite museum, which Kubas said did not exist until 1982.

Satirical rumors from a "Straight Talk Habersham" group claiming a time capsule was opened circulated social media Thursday evening before the location of the alleged time capsule was dug.

The information provided was false.

History

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sons attending the ceremonies as Elberton Mayor Jack Wheeler and County Commission Chairman Billy Ray Brown dropped symbolic yellow ribbons and 10th District Rep. Doug Barnard cut the rope holding a plastic covering hiding the massive monument," according to reports from the March 25, 1980, edition of The Star.

During the ceremony, William A. Kelly, the executive vice president of the EGA, read a statement from the anonymous group of funders for the project that Christian represented.

The group was believed to contain around a half-a-dozen people that were "described by Christian as loyal Americans who believe in God and country" who chose Georgia as the Guidestones' site because of the availability of granite and its mild climate," according to The Star.

"If our inscribed words are dimmed by the wear of wind and sun and time, we ask that you will cut them deeper. If the stones should fall or if they be scattered by people of little understanding, we ask that you will raise them up again," part of the statement read.

Inscribed on the monument were 12 different languages – four on the capstone and eight on the four main stones.

The languages were Sanskrit, Babylonian Cuneiform, Classical Greek and Egyptian Hieroglyphic on the capstone and English, Russian, Mandarin Chinese, Arabic, Classical Hebrew, Swahili, Hindi and Spanish on the tablets.

The message on the capstone says "Let these be guidestones to an age of reason."

According to "The Georgia Guidestones" publication, the languages were chosen "because they represent the languages spoken by a majority of the people in the world."

to produce the messages that were set forth by the mysterious group as "guidelines" for humanity.

"No one will agree with everything on it, but these are definite guidelines which can be applied to life," Rep. Barnard said after the 1980 dedication ceremony, according to reports from The Star.

Over the last 42 years, interest grew for the monument, drawing large crowds to Elbert County.

Cone said he has taken "hundreds" of tour groups out to the monument over the years.

One of the most frequently asked questions Hudson said he received on the tours was if he thought the Guidestones were erected by granite sheds in the area to promote the granite industry.

"I said 'No.' None of the literature, or the publicity around it, said that 'Elberton granite is good or better than any other granite,'" Cone said. "It does not promote the Elberton granite industry."

Around 1982, Cone said he received a call from Fendley asking him if he wanted to meet "Mr. Christian." Cone accepted the invitation and the three met at the former Hunan restaurant in Elberton.

"He was about 6'2", mid-70s, bald-headed, had on a tie and a short sleeve blue sports shirt," Cone remembered. "Based on his accent, I'd say he was from Nebraska, the Dakotas or the mid-West."

Christian's origins have never been confirmed, although some reports speculate he was from Texas.

On July 6, just after 4 a.m., an unidentified individual left an explosive device at the monument, turning one of the wings to be crushed into a pile of rubble after the explo-



The Georgia Guidestones have drawn local, national and international attention over the past 42 years. The site has been a spot for people to view the solar eclipse (above), a destination for Japanese students in the City of Elberton's Sister City Exchange program (below, left) and class field trips for students in the Elbert County School District.



sion.

Due to "safety reasons" and a request from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, the monuments were completely demolished.

"We as an industry, we build monuments regardless of race, creed, color, gender, whatever," Kubas said. "When some-

body comes to us with a monument request, we don't judge what is on it, we just build it. This was no different. We didn't have any control over the thing that was written on it, that was just what that person wanted on that monument. You would not be able to replicate those stones in very

many places other than Elberton. The size and the scope of what went into them is truly amazing and the craftsmanship was something that you wouldn't be able to find just anywhere. For the industry as a whole, I hate to see our work destroyed like that. We look at it as an example of the

type of work we're able to do, not what was written on it and the controversy surrounding it."

What was once a mysterious monument meant to guide humanity and showcased the best of Elbert County's granite craftsmanship has now been turned to rubble and dust.

BE NOT A CANCER ON THE EARTH –
LEAVE ROOM FOR NATURE –
LEAVE ROOM FOR NATURE

Leaving a message in stone

The English translation of the message on the Georgia Guidestones read:

“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;

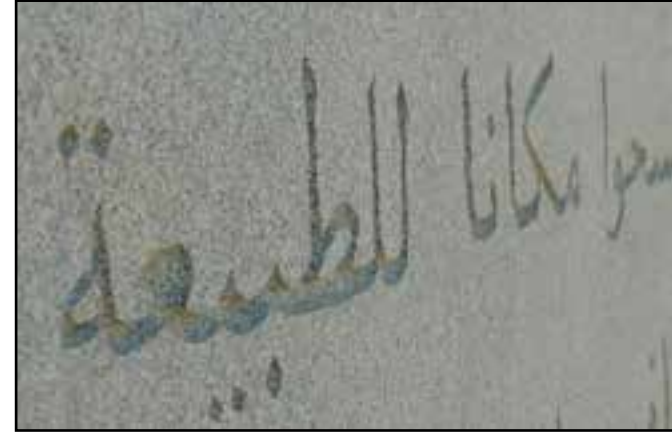
Prize truth, beauty, love...seeking harmony with the infinite;

Be not a cancer on earth — leave room for nature — leave room for nature.”

Over 4,000 letters were sandblasted onto the granite slabs making up the monument.

The inscription on the monument is in 12 different languages – four on the capstone and eight on the four main stones. The languages include Sanskrit, Babylonian Cuneiform, Classical Greek and Egyptian Hieroglyphic on the capstone and English, Russian, Mandarin Chinese, Arabic, Classical Hebrew, Swahili, Hindi and Spanish.

The message on the capstone said “Let these be guidestones to an age of reason.”



“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. Weight 42,437 lbs. each (avg.)
One Center Stone	(the Gnomon Stone) 3 ft., 3 in. wide; 16 ft., 4 in. high; 1 ft., 7 in. thick. Weight 20,957 lbs.
One Cap Stone	6 ft., 6 in. wide; 9 ft., 8 in. long; 1 ft., 7 in. thick. Weight 24,832 lbs.
Four Support Stones	(Bases) 7 ft., 4 in. long; 2 ft., 0 in. wide; 1 ft., 4 in. thick. Weight 4,875 lbs. each (avg.)
One Support Stone	(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.

Pulled from 114 feet deep in Joe Fendley’s Pryamid Quarry, the granite used to make the Georgia Guidestones monument was 237,746 pounds, or 119 tons. The measurements (left) were provided in “The Georgia Guidestones” magazine, published by the Elberton Granite Finishing Company, Inc. According to “astronomical aspects” listed in the magazine, an oblique hole was drilled from the south to the north side of the center stone “so that the North Star is always visible, symbolizing constancy and orientation with the forces of nature. Along with the hole, a slot was cut in the middle of the center stone to form a window “which aligns with the positions of the rising sun at the summer and winter solstices and the equinox so that the noon sun shines to indicate noon on a curved line.”

Georgia Guidestones



‘An attack on our county, history, principal industry

The Elbert County Chamber of Commerce was saddened to learn of the recent criminal attack on our community and the intentional destruction of Elbert County’s most frequently visited attraction, the Georgia Guidestones.

For the last four decades, the Georgia Guidestones have inspired many discussions, television specials, news reports and YouTube videos highlighting our rural community here in Northeast Georgia.

Our webpage about the Georgia Guidestones received more hits per month than any of our other pages by far. People who had never heard of Elberton looked us up, sought us out and came to visit us – before the attack.

The Chamber of Commerce also staffs the Welcome Center and is the only official tourism organization in Elbert County.

We received more phone calls and visitors to the office about the Guidestones than any other topic. Typically, people have planned a trip to our area and would like to know what else they can do while they are in town, where they can shop and eat and where they can spend the night. People flew in from other countries and drove in from far-away states.

The destruction of the Guidestones was an attack on our county, our history and our principal industry. The impact is felt not only by our local small businesses, restaurants and lodging accommodations – but also by the granite industry, and the artists who created the Guidestones and their families, whose legacy now lies in a pile of dust by the side of the road.

The number of people calling the Chamber confirming that the Guidestones are gone, who are sad that they now feel the need to cancel their trip to Elbert County, is growing by the hour.

The Georgia Guidestones monument was a testament to and showcase of the craftsmanship and skill by our local granite industry.

The Chamber of Commerce was invested in the Georgia Guidestones in tangible ways – we have a large photo of them across the front of our office, half of the merchandise we offer for sale is Guidestones related and an image of the Guidestones is featured in our logo.

We are fully supportive of the Guidestones being reconstructed, whether public and/or private, or by collaboration.

The Elbert County Chamber of Commerce

‘Long live the Guidestones!’

For over 122 years, the men and women of Elberton have produced the world’s finest granite monuments and memorials.

Even today, our community produces two thirds of the monuments sold in the United States, and we do so without reservation to all those who call upon us regardless of race, creed, religion or any other classification.

Our stone workers are industry-leading, world renowned professionals who set the standard for excellence in stonework and care for America’s families in their greatest time of loss.

The Guidestones are unique, and confusing to many, but the message they testify to has never been what is written on them or what some kooky YouTube thinks they mean.

It is the stones themselves and the men and women who crafted them from the raw earth that tell the story.

There is only one community in the world that could build such a monument... and that is what we celebrate here and will continue to celebrate long after the tragic events of today are forgotten.

Long live the Guidestones!
Long live Elbert County!
Long live the Granite Capital of the World!!

Daniel Graves
Mayor of Elberton

Guidestones bomber could face at least 20 years in prison

Regardless of your feelings about the origin of the Guidestones, their meaning or the intention of the person who commissioned and erected them, they are a historical landmark, and this destructive act was an assault upon our community.

Detonating a massive explosive device capable of shattering a granite tablet in an area surrounded by residences is a criminal act which placed many people in peril of serious injury.

The perpetrator of this act will be found and prosecuted.

The Official Code of Georgia Annotated section 16-7-88 proscribes using explosive devices to destroy public buildings.

The Guidestones are officially owned by the governing authority of Elbert County, and any structure open to the public and owned by a subdivision of the state is considered a public building.

The penalty for destroying any public building by explosive is a minimum of 20 years in prison without the possibility of parole.

The GBI already has many leads, and the case is being made against the perpetrator.

If you have any information that could further this investigation, please contact the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Region 11, at 706-552-2309.

The District Attorney’s Office thanks anyone willing to come forward and help successfully prosecute this act of domestic terrorism.

Parks White
District Attorney
Northern Judicial Circuit

Clamp: ‘I am heartbroken’

I am saddened to learn of the complete destruction of the Georgia Guidestones.

I remember, when I was very young, watching my dad sandblast all the lettering onto the stones. I even helped him a little bit.

While my dad sandblasted the lettering, a film crew was shooting the quarry scene of the movie “Breaking Away,” a film about bicycle racing.

I have fond memories of the hard work my dad and many other great men put into those stones. All were good men and all were extremely talented in their respective fields of Granite work.

There hasn’t been a town I’ve traveled to that someone hasn’t asked me about the secrets of the Georgia Guidestones. Many conversations abound on social media as to the mysteries and conspiracies of who and why they were made.

That mystery ended when a huge explosion completely destroyed one of the columns supporting the top cap. The other three columns were taken down in the interest of safety because of severe structural damage.

I am heartbroken, as my dad would often talk about how interesting and difficult the job was. Four columns, eight sides and eight languages sandblasted in rough stone by hand.

No easy task, and only a master sandblastman could have achieved such a task. My dad was perfect for the job!

Many times I have gone to the Guidestones to clean off graffiti or to make minor repairs, but never in a million years would I have believed someone would have stooped this low to destroy something that symbolized one man’s belief.

Because at the end of the day, that’s what this was...A privately-funded view of one mans belief system.

The reason he chose Elbert County to put up such a huge monument was apparent, as we were the only ones capable of making it...and now, it’s lost forever.

My hope is that enough people will be enraged about the total destruction of these stones that a push to stop all of the tearing down of monuments and statues will become common.

Today was a severe attack on our First Amendment right to freedom of speech, whether you believed in what it said or not, isn’t the point, but the fact that it could be said was much more important.

Today we should all be offended, not by words or symbols or disagreements, but from the very fact that we are being challenged on whether or not we can have a voice!

My hope is that they are put back up, original lettering and all, but with an added quote at the bottom:

“We will not go quietly into the night! We will not vanish without a fight! We’re going to live on!” – Bill Pullman, Independence Day.

Mart Clamp
Son of Charlie Clamp

‘The Guidestones are gone... but you can’t erase history’

The events of this week have left me stunned. Watching the bombing and demolition of the Guidestones didn’t just leave me angry, it also left me broken-hearted. The Guidestones weren’t just rocks on a hill, they were a part of my family’s legacy.

A legacy that my dad, Joe Fendley Sr., built. My family moved from Birmingham, Alabama for my dad to take a job at Star Granite Company.

My dad was 25 at the time and was full of energy and lots of ideas. He quickly became a part of the community that would be his forever home.

His salesmanship and marketing abilities were phenomenal and he used these skills to provide for our family and to not only promote the granite companies – Elberton Granite Finishing Co. and Pyramid Quarries – he acquired in the early 1970s, but out little town of Elberton and Elbert County.

I was away at college in 1980 when the Guidestones were unveiled. I never imagined the impact they would have on our community. For the last 42 years this monument garnered publicity, both good and bad.

Either way, it put our little town on the map. The top of the hill on Highway 77 is now empty. The Guidestones are gone, but as they say, you can’t erase history.

The mystery of who put them there will always remain.

I just pray who took them down doesn’t. Thanks Papa Joe for your love and support for our little town.

Melissa Fendley Caruso
Daughter of Joe Fendley Sr.

Fendley: ‘I am so mad, I am so angry and so hurt’

I am so mad. I am so angry and so hurt. This was a disgrace to Elbert County that some fool did what they did.

I hope they catch them and prosecute them to the fullest. I hope they put them under the jail. Not in the jail, under the jail.

I know what Daddy would do. He’d think the same way I do.

The Guidestones meant a heck of a lot. We built them. I was off in college at the time when it first started.

I am so angry about the whole situation.

Joe “Ace” Fendley Jr.
Son of Joe Fendley Sr.

‘A quirky enigma from my childhood, and I loved them’

I was 11 years old when the Guidestones were unveiled. I read all the articles about the mysterious R.C. Christian and the group that funded them and thought it was the most wonderful thing, a genuine mystery right here in Elberton, our very own Stonehenge, albeit new.

I loved the message on them, too, about our responsibility as stewards of a beautiful planet, a breathtakingly miraculous world, not a message about wiping out the population as some seem to interpret it but one about walking lightly on this earth, reigning in our enormous footprint and leaving room, as the stones reminded us, for nature.

As an adult, I moved far away from Elberton, but I always told people about our weird mystery stones, and they were always fascinated. Ironically, although I was back home in Elberton on Wednesday morning, the first news of the explosion came to me via a friend in Wales, who sent me a link to *The Elberton Star*’s Facebook post on it.

They were a quirky enigma from my childhood, and I loved them. Watching their destruction broke my heart, and made me feel like maybe Georgia, and America, were as broken too as everyone kept telling me they were although I had refused to believe it.

Maybe I was wrong. Who would do such a thing? What harm were the Guidestones doing? When did we stop talking to our neighbors face to face and start yelling at them in the comments section of social media posts and come to believe that violence was the answer to anything that we disagreed with or didn’t like?

When did we stop believing in the freedom to hold many different points of view while still being united?

Lynda Rucker

‘Destroying in the name of the devil gives the devil dominance’

As a former resident of Elberton and writer for The Elberton Star, I share my thoughts on The Georgia Guidestones.

I was living in Elbert County during the time the Guidestones were discussed, planned and constructed. I remember all the principals involved - with the exception of R.C. Christian, of course - most of whom, if not all, are gone now.

The magnitude of the fabrication and construction were formidable and the concept was admirable. Since I am fluent in only one of the languages used in the Guidestones, I can only trust and believe that the translations are accurate.

It seems that many readers of the Guidestones stumble on the first precept of world population - the number and who gets to decide? If one can get beyond a "number" and continue to read, it seems to me that the intent is clear - to live in harmony and balance with others and nature. Period.

This is what my Christian faith teaches me; to do anything less than that is not supported by the teachings of Jesus. To those who support the notion that the Guidestones are evil, I suggest that if the devil is in your heart, that is what you will see. If Jesus is in your heart, you will hear Jesus.

To destroy an inanimate object in the name of the devil gives the devil dominance. To me, that seems misguided.

Kay Pickard Shiver Curry
Brunswick

Alpharetta resident: Guidestones loss ‘hits too close to home’

In the middle of 2020, my family visited the Guidestones on one of many trips to “see all of Georgia” while most of our other recreational activities were closed down or extremely limited. It was a trip that included three generations.

In preparation for our excursion, we had watched various documentaries and listened to podcasts on the subject. We knew the various interpretations, but we were still intrigued and interested in visiting. Who doesn’t love a good mystery?

Our family perceives the Guidestones as one of many roadside oddities that spark the curiosity and imagination of average people. What would motivate such an elaborate monument? What kind of person or people would brainstorm this particular list? How were the languages decided upon? Why Elberton? To us, the trip to the Guidestones was an adventure wrapped in mystery that made for a memorable family outing.

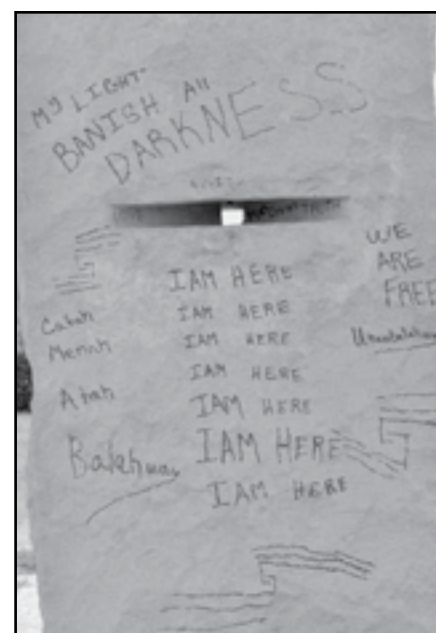
We visited during the height of the pandemic. The dictates etched in stone contrasted poignantly with unanswered questions about Covid and calls to do various things for the good of others. The Guidestones and the pandemic will always be inextricably linked in my memory.

In the end, while I’m extremely grateful to have gotten the chance to have seen them, I am incredibly sad for the community of Elberton. The craftsmanship of the monument is a testament to the skill of the professionals in the granite industry, and the Guidestones were a unique attraction to a small town I would not have otherwise visited.

To know that they have been destroyed by assumptive ignorance is disheartening to me. They are a real loss, perhaps not for what they said, but for letting in the idea that the thoughts of one person could be eradicated by destructive violence. I don’t live in Elberton, but the loss of the Guidestones hits too close to home for me.

Jennifer Worrel
Alpharetta

A history of controversy, vandalism surround monument



Guidestones were target of repeated 'artwork,' vandalism

The Georgia Guidestones were a target of 'guerrilla' art and repeated vandalism over the years. In November 2008, authorities offered a \$1,000 reward for information that led to the arrest of the persons responsible for spray painting every surface of the monument in phrases such as "Death to the New World order." In May 2011, an organization known as "The Neo-Transcendentalists for The Society of the Third Millennium" took credit for "artwork" that "renovated" the Guidestones with sheets and satellites atop the monument. In September 2014, strange messages at the Guidestones led local investigators to contact the Federal Bureau of Investigation, who came to Elberton to look at the markings.

Demolishing the Guidestones: Former gubernatorial candidate reacts

By Rose Scoggins
rscoggins@elberton.com

A former candidate for Georgia governor who said she would demolish the Georgia Guidestones as the state's chief executive condemned vandalism after the bombing of the monument this week but said that God could do anything he wants.

During her campaign for governor, Republican Kandiss Taylor listed demolishing the Guidestones as one of 10 executive orders she would issue if elected.

Taylor was not the first person to call for the Guidestones' removal during its 40-plus year history. The monument was repeatedly vandalized since it was erected. Since Taylor's call for removal as part of her campaign, the Elbert County Board of Commissioners was addressed by Franklin County pastor and former commissioner Clint Harper and supporters, who also called for the monument to be dismantled (see related story).

Taylor reacted to Wednesday's bombing of the monument on her social media before footage of a man carrying a presumed explosive device to Guidestones was released.

"God is God all by Himself. He can do ANYTHING He wants to do. That includes striking down Satanic Guidestones," Taylor wrote on her Facebook page Wednesday morning.

Later Wednesday afternoon, Taylor posted a video on Facebook labeled "Fake Media on Notice!"

Although never naming the Guidestones or the bombing events specifically, Taylor spoke about "law and order," and addressed those in the "media" who made claims that she "did not believe in law and order and supports vandalism."

"I would never support that. In fact, I think anyone who goes on private or public property to destroy anything illegally should be arrested...I also wrote 10 potential executive orders that I was planning to execute, had I been elected, legally, governor of Georgia. One of those spoke about something that now is being twisted...I believe vandalism is illegal. Sometimes people like to call vandalism instead of actually giving God credit because they don't know how to explain what happens when God moves."

An abundance of people took to social media to share their beliefs that the explosion at the Guidestones was merely lightning after the first video footage was released.

"Until I see a video that shows me anything but what looked like lightning or the hand of God moving on a situation, I'm going to believe it was God," Taylor said in the video. "If it was vandalism, then there were cameras everywhere that would have picked that up and those people should be brought to justice."

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation has since released video footage of an unidentified individual leaving an explosive device at the Guidestones.

Taylor, who was one of five Republican candidates in the May 24 primary race for governor, received 41,232 votes, or 3.42 percent in the statewide election and 123 votes in Elbert County.

Her potential executive orders for if she became governor were announced earlier this year, dealing with issues surrounding education, "Christian Programs," the 2020 election, a "mandate ban," the Georgia State Guard, abortion and adoption.

"EO Number 10 is going to shake the nation," Taylor wrote in a post April 21.

The phrase, "The Satanic elites have a plan. So do we," was listed on several posts previewing the announcement of the executive order plan.

On May 2, Taylor released a video on her Facebook page that included a clip of her in front of the Guidestones.

"I am the ONLY candidate bold enough to stand up to the Luciferian Cabal," Taylor wrote on the post. "Elect me Governor of Georgia, and I will bring the Satanic Regime to its knees – and DEMOLISH the Georgia Guidestones. Join me in my fight to #TearThemDown!"

In another post May 2, Taylor also made the claim that "The Georgia Guidestones are exactly 666 aerial miles from the United Nations headquarters in NYC."

"It's no coincidence, they must be destroyed," Taylor said. "For decades, the Global Luciferian Regime has seeped its way into our Government. On my first day as Governor of Georgia, I will move to DEMOLISH the Demonic plans of our enemy. The Satanic agenda is NOT welcome in our state. Support my fight by contributing, and watch as I turn the Georgia Guidestones into dust!"

After finding out about the order Wednesday, May 4, The Elberton Star made contact with Taylor's campaign manager and was directed to her scheduler/coordinator Thursday, May 5, in order to request an interview. However, The Star was unable to schedule an interview.

"My Executive Order 10 Plan to Demolish the Georgia Guidestones is a plan to dismantle not only the Agenda of those who want us dead, but the specific Idol that they had made to brag in our faces about it," Taylor sent in a statement via her campaign team May 10 after The Star's press deadline. "The people of Georgia are done with the humiliation rituals and blatant disrespect of humanity. The Georgia Guidestones and the Satanic Agenda to depopulate the Earth and create a 'One World Order' must ALL be brought down, and when I'm the Governor of Georgia, I will make sure it is – via bulldozer."

Dismantling monument was topic of June meeting

By Rose Scoggins
rscoggins@elberton.com

Dismantling the Georgia Guidestones became a topic of the June meeting of the Elbert County Board of Commissioners after former Franklin County commissioner and pastor Clint Harper addressed the board.

Harper, who spoke with notes in his Bible, asked the commissioners if they knew "exactly" what the Guidestones are and what the inscriptions on the monument means. Harper also asked what the taxpayer cost of the Guidestones is, including the costs for the grass cutting, lighting and security monitoring.

Vaughn, Daughtry and Pitts said it was "an insignificant amount" and that there is no budget line item for the Guidestones.

Harper also asked the board if they "agreed with" the inscriptions on the stones, citing that the inscriptions are "supporting of genocide, advocates the killing of 6.5 billion people [and] supporting abortion and planned parenthood."

"We are not advocating the nonsense on those monuments," Daughtry said. "You're reading a lot into this...It's simply a tourist attraction. We don't have to disagree with it or understand it. You looked at it and saw abortion in big letters, which I've looked at it and I did not see that. It's been there for years. People pull off the interstate and come and spend their money at local businesses after they look at a funny monument."

Based on the inscriptions, Harper claimed the Guidestones are a "religious monument," specifically a pagan monument.

"I've never known anyone other than Kandiss Taylor to consider this a statement of faith," Daughtry said of the former gubernatorial candidate's executive order plan to demolish the Guidestones.

Harper also asked the board if they

would allow a Nazi or KKK monument to remain standing.

"That's hate speech," Vaughn said. "There's nothing on that monument that's hate speech."

"Killing 6.5 billion people is hate speech," Harper responded.

"I've never talked to a single person who's read it that way," Vaughn said.

Harper said by Robert's Rules of Order, the commission could vote on dismantling the Guidestones, and asked them to do so.

"I've been approached about the confederate monument on the square," Commissioner Freddie Jones said. "Are we going to take down everything one person wants? I think we could do something better with the money in the community...We could use that money for better things than trying to destroy tourism."

Vaughn and Daughtry said there was no reason to vote and that they would not take a vote.

Citing that the Guidestones are a religious monument and a Supreme Court case concerning a "Christian flag lawsuit," from Boston, Massachusetts, Harper then asked the board if they would allow him to put a cross and 10 commandments monument on the property with the Guidestones.

"I am petitioning this board, if you're not going to tear them down, give Christians, me, fair access to public land," Harper said.

Daughtry and Vaughn told Harper it would not be possible for him to do so as the law does not allow religious monuments to be placed on government property.

"I really think it's a stretch for you to interpret the Guidestones as a religious monument," Daughtry said. "It's not a religious monument, and that's not how we interpret it. It's a tourist attraction we have that apparently we don't give as much thought to as you do. It brings a lot of tourists here to bring money in our stores and our restaurants."

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