

Birkmeier & Sons Monument Company

Founded: 1880

Location: 112 North Central Street, Delphos, Ohio (1880–1929); 2323 Main Street, Fort Wayne (1929–)

John G. Birkmeier founded J. G. Birkmeier & Sons in Delphos, Ohio, in 1880. Birkmeier sold mausoleums, monuments, and markers for use in cemeteries throughout northwest Ohio and northeast Indiana. In 1929 the company moved to Fort Wayne. Alexander C. Birkmeier, who had been a salesman in Fort Wayne, supervised the construction of a new building. Ownership of the firm remained in the family, with Alexander succeeding his father. He was followed first by Hilary J. Birkmeier and then Richard A. Birkmeier. “Honesty Is the Secret of Our Success” was an early motto of the company. Between 1946 and 1953 the company became Birkmeier & Sons Monument Company. Birkmeier & Sons built several public monuments in Fort Wayne, including the Rudisill Memorial in Lindenwood Cemetery, which honored an early settler, and the Art Smith Memorial in Memorial Park, which was built in 1928 to commemorate a well-known stunt pilot known as the “Bird Boy,” who had died in 1926.