

O'Toole Brothers Monuments

Founded: 1878

Location: 6 North Main Street, Liberty (1878–91); 408 Brownsville Avenue (1891–)

James P. O'Toole created the James O'Toole Monuments Company in 1878. He was one of many Irish immigrants who made their way to the United States from County Wicklow. It is unknown when he actually arrived in America, but he married another Irish immigrant, Mary McNally, in 1862.

By the beginning of the Civil War he was a dealer in monuments in Louisville, Kentucky. After the Civil War he first settled in Connersville, moving to Liberty in 1878. Within eight years the business had passed to his sons, Thomas, James P., Albert, and John. The operation was then renamed O'Toole Brothers Monuments.

The children moved the business to its present location, 408 Brownsville Avenue in 1891. In 1914 the brothers erected the one and one-half story brick, glass, and limestone structure that is still used by the company. In the 1920s the O'Tooles bought a Biederman Six, long-bed truck. The truck, with a top speed of ten miles per hour, continued to haul monuments for several decades.

James P. O'Toole and his son, James D. consolidated the ownership into their hands in 1936. In 1962 the firm discontinued its production of cement burial vaults. James D. O'Toole's sons, James Jr. and Steven Thomas operated the business in 1998.