

# Vermont's State Gem, Mineral, Rock & Fossil



and the quarries to have produced more stone than any other soapstone quarries in Vermont. Examples of Grafton's soapstone products plus photos of the quarrying operations can be seen at the Grafton Historical Society museum, which is open weekends May through October.

**State Rock - Marble, slate, and granite:** Marble, as originally proposed, was joined by granite and slate as state rocks. The latter were added by legislators who felt that one of the state's dimension stones should not be honored over another. In addition to the famous white crystalline Imperial Danby marble, mined in the world's largest underground marble mine, Vermont is well known for its fossiliferous black marble, which contains nearly intact gastropods and cephalopods and is extracted from the quarries located on Isle La Motte. Marble, slate, and granite are all important to the Vermont economy and are still mined in abundance. Historically, the three are famous. Vermont marble, as a facing, graces parts of the Jefferson Memorial, and Vermont slate is on the roof of both the White House and Vermont's State House. (See "Vermont Visitor Information" in this issue for locations of museums and displays of dimension stone.)

*Sue H. Hadden*

**State Fossil - *Delphinapterus leucas*:** In the spring of 1993 the Vermont state legislature designated a fossil originally collected in Charlotte, Vermont, in 1849 as the state fossil. A white whale skeleton, of the Late Pleistocene, was discovered

# Carousel

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