

006-169

On April 7, 1909, the work was resumed and continued steadily until August 21, 1909 when it was announced that the last stone was ready to be placed in position upon the topmost battlement. The last stone was in the form of a double parallelogram, the two parts being at right angles with each other. Its greatest length was five feet four inches and its width at least two ft six inches. Its weight was about one ton. The stone was attached to the derrick chain by "the strong grip of a lewis," and 4 persons took their places on it. These were the government inspector of the work who had applied the square, level and plumb to every stone; the derrick man who had directed the raising of every stone, Miss Isabel George and Miss Annie Cromar, daughter and niece of Fred George, foreman of the stonework construction.

The stone rose rapidly to the summit of the highest battlement where it found its resting place on the north-east corner, directly above the corner stone, 252 feet below.

This completed the stonework of the structure, but not of the monument. There still remained the incline in the interior which took the place of stairways. This work was begun almost immediately after the completion of the walls and continued through the winter of 1909-1910, steam pipes being put into the monument and supplied with steam from the boilers connected with the engine used in the work.

This winter work was necessary, since it was the desire of the Monument Association that the edifice should be wholly completed and in readiness for the dedicatory exercises early in August of the coming year.

The work of constructing the interior works was completed on March 29, 1910 with the exception of the bronze grills at the window openings, the bronze railings in the arches of the belfry, the massive oak doors at the entrances, and the close wooden shutters which serve to keep out the winter storms. All these details were completed and the final blows struck in June 1910. The bronze tablet over the south entrance was placed in position about the first of August, a few days before the dedicatory exercises were held.

Inscription Upon the Bronze Tablet on the Face of the Monument, Written by Dr. Charles W. Eliot, President Emeritus of Harvard College.

On November 21st, 1620, the Mayflower, carrying 102 passengers—men, women and children, cast anchor in this harbor 67 days from Plymouth, England.

The same day the 41 adult males in the company solemnly covenanted and combined themselves together "into a Civill Body Politick".

This Body Politic established and maintained on the bleak and barren edge of a vast wilderness a State without a King or a Noble, a Church without a Bishop or a Priest, a Democratic Commonwealth, the members of which were "straightly tied to all care of each other's good and of the whole by every one".

For the first time in history they illustrated with long suffering devotion and sober resolution the principles of civil and religious liberty in the practices of a genuine democracy.

Therefore the remembrance of them shall be perpetual in the great Republic that has inherited their ideals.

Fifty Years Ago

July 1, 1909

Arrived yesterday, schooner Mabel E. Goss, with 138 tons of granite for the Pilgrim Monument. This is the last load requisite for the completion of that huge pile.

A bronze kettle leg and many of Gov. Prence's bronze and pewter table spoons dug from the cellar hole on his Eastham house site at various times since 1880 are in Orleans homes today.

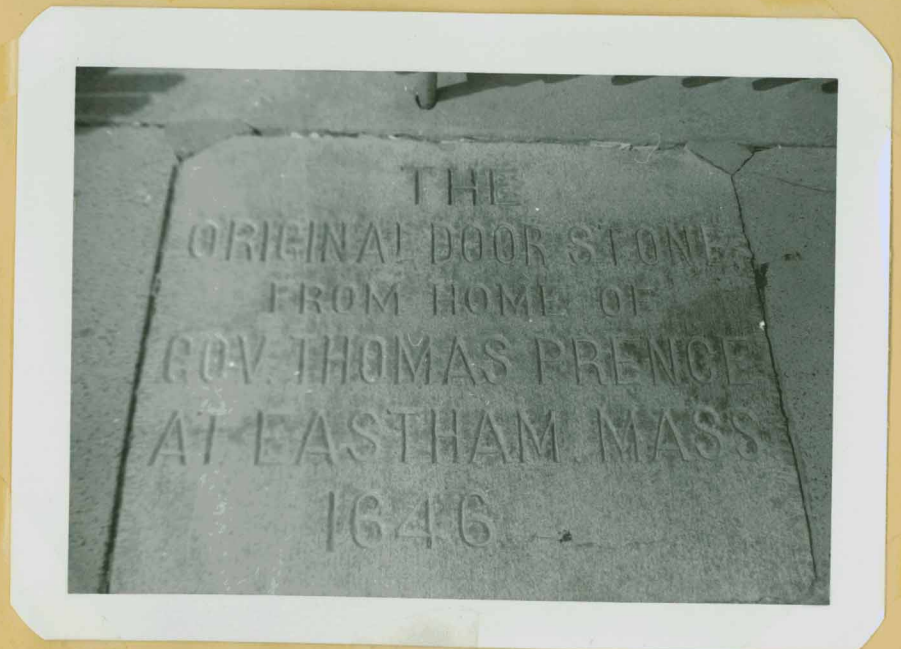
Last Stone Aug 21, 1909

1522



John R Smith

- 345 feet above sea level -



The Door Stone at the South Entrance

Prence was a former Governor of Massachusetts, and related to me way back.

Picture taken August 1961