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THE  
WASHINGTON  
MONUMENT





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..The..  
Washington Monument

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..Illustrated..

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An authentic history of its origin and construction,  
and a complete description of its  
memorial tablets

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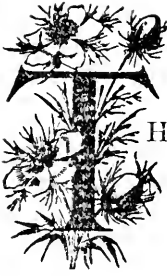
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## THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT.

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THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT occupies a prominent site near the banks of the Potomac, west of the Mall, at the former confluence of the Tiber with the main stream, and half a mile due south of the Executive Mansion. It stands on a terrace 17 feet high. The square of 41 acres in which the Monument stands was designated on L'Enfant's plan of the City of Washington as the site for the proposed Monument to Washington, which was ordered by the Continental Congress in 1783 and approved by Washington himself. The Monument stands close to the intersection of the Jeffersonian meridian line of 1802, passing through the center of the Executive Mansion, north and south, with a line running east and west through the center of the Capitol.

The total height of the Monument above ground is 555 feet 5½ inches; or 597 feet 3 inches above mean low water in the Potomac; or 596 feet 9.36 inches above the mean level of the Atlantic at Sandy Hook, N. Y.; or 592 feet from its foundation bed. The entire height has been made slightly greater than ten times the breadth of base. The Monument is the highest permanent structure in the world.

The estimated number of stones in the shaft is 23,000, and its total weight, including foundation and earth upon it, 81,120 tons. The mean pressure of the Monument is 5 tons per square foot.

The total cost of the structure, in round figures, amounted to about \$1,500,000. The popular subscription reached the sum of \$300,000, and Congress appropriated the necessary balance.

The foundations of the Monument, which bear a weight of 81,120 tons, are constructed of solid blue rock, and are 146 feet 6 inches square, and 36 feet 8 inches deep. The base of the shaft is 55 feet square, and the lower walls are 15 feet thick. At the 500-foot elevation, where the pyramidal top begins, the walls are only 18 inches thick and about 35 feet square. The inside of the walls, as far as they were constructed before the work was undertaken by the Government in 1878—150 feet from the base—is of blue granite, not laid in courses. From this point to within a short distance of the beginning of the top or roof, the inside of the walls is of regular courses of granite, corresponding with the courses of marble on the outside. For the top marble is entirely used.

The marble blocks were cut or “dressed” in the most careful manner, and laid in courses of 2 feet by experienced and skillful workmen. There is no “filling” or “backing” between the granite and marble blocks, but they are all closely joined, the work being declared “the best piece of masonry in the world.” By a plumb-line suspended from the top of the Monument inside, not  $\frac{3}{8}$  of an inch deflection has been noticed.

## THE KEYSTONE.

The keystone, which binds the interior ribs of stone that support the marble facing of the pyramidal cap of the Monument, weighs nearly five tons. It is 4 feet 6 inches high, and 3 feet 6 inches square at the top.

The topmost stone of the pyramidon was placed in position December 6, 1884. It weighs 3,300 pounds; its height from base to top is 5 feet  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches; it is 4 feet  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches high on the outer face, with a 7-inch shoulder



to bind on each side, extending  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches below ; its base is 3 feet and a fraction square, and 5 inches in diameter at the top where the aluminum top fits in. This is 9 inches in height and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches at the base, and, weighing 100 ounces, terminates the top stone or cap. This metal was selected because of its lightness and freedom from oxidation, and because it will always remain bright.

The masonry constructed by the Government is the best known to the engineering art, and the weight is so distributed, that, subjected to a wind pressure of one hundred pounds per square foot on any face, corresponding to a wind velocity of one hundred and forty-five miles per hour, the Monument would have a large factor of safety against overturning.

The marble is of the same kind as that in the monolithic columns of the Capitol, has a fine grain, is close and compact in texture, free from disintegrating impurities, and in this climate will endure for ages.

In the proportions of this grandest monumental column ever erected in any age of the world, the ratios of the dimensions of the several parts of the ancient Egyptian obelisk have been carefully followed.

An immense iron-frame structure supports the machinery of the elevator, which is hoisted with steel-wire ropes, 2 inches thick. At one side begin the iron stairs, of which there are 50 flights, containing 18 steps each. 520 feet from the entrance to the Monument, at the base of the pyramidal top, there is a lookout platform containing an area of  $1,187\frac{1}{4}$  square feet and 8 windows, 18 x 24 inches, 2 on each face.

It costs the Government about \$20,000 a year to take the public up the 500 feet and down again after they have had a view of the surrounding country from the

Bill approved June 6, 1900, appropriated \$20,000 for one top of the Monument. The Sundry Civil Appropriation dynamo and connections, including installation of new system, and \$6,500 for an addition to the boiler house for use in connection with the installation of electric power. The steam system is in good working order, but is slow and expensive, therefore it will be supplanted by the electric system.

There is enough room in the interior of the Monument to house an army of 12,000 men. The landings will accommodate 7,675; the stairs, 3,845; the upper and lower platforms, 450; and the elevator, 30 men.

On an average, 500 visitors daily ascend to the top of the Monument, either by the staircase of 900 steps or with the elevator

The thirteenth platform is at a height of 152 feet, and it is here where the Government began its work finishing the Monument. This platform does not contain any memorial tablets. The reason for this apparent oversight cannot be ascertained: it may have been the superstitious belief of the builders in the bad omen of the fateful number thirteen which caused them not to honor this platform with any of the Monument's valuable autographs.

One of the stones contributed was a block of African marble from the Temple of Concord at Rome, and was the gift of the Pope. It bore the inscription "Rome to America." In March, 1854, during the Know-Nothing excitement, the lapidarium, where the memorial blocks were kept, was forcibly entered, and this stone was taken, and, it is supposed, was thrown into the Potomac. A reward for its return was offered, but the stone up to this date has not been recovered, and its hiding place remains a secret.

**The following are the Inscriptions on the four faces of the aluminum apex of the Monument:**

**North Face.**

Joint Commission at setting of Cap Stone: Chester A. Arthur. W. W. Corcoran, Chairman; M. E. Bell, Edward Clark, John Newton. Act of August 2nd, 1876.

**West Face.**

Corner Stone Laid on Bed of Foundation July 4th, 1848. First Stone at Height of 152 Feet, Laid August 7th, 1880. Cap Stone Set December 6th, 1884.

**South Face.**

Chief Engineer and Architect, Thos. Lincoln Casey, Colonel Corps of Engineers. Assistants, George W. Davis, Captain 14th Infantry; Bernard R. Green, Civil Engineer; Master Mechanic, P. H. McLaughlin.

**East Face.**

*Laus Deo.*

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**Inscription on copper plate covering deposit recess of the Corner Stone of the Monument:**

4th July, 1776. Declaration of Independence of the United States of America.

4th July, 1848. This Corner Stone Laid of a Monument by the People of the United States to the Memory of George Washington.

James K. Polk, President of the United States and Ex-Officio President of the Board of Managers.

William Brent, First Vice-President. William W. Seaton, Mayor of Washington, 2nd Vice-President. Gen'l A. Henderson, 3rd Vice-President. J. B. H. Smith, Treasurer; George Watterston, Sec'y.

### **Board of Managers.**

Major-Gen'l Winfield Scott, Gen'l N. Towson, Col. J. J. Abert, Col. J. Kearney, Gen'l Walter Jones, Thomas Carberry, Wm. A. Bradley, P. R. Fendall, Thomas Munroe, Walter Lenox, M. F. Maury, Thomas Blagden, Elisha Wittlesey, General Agent.

### **Building Committee.**

Thomas Carberry, William A. Bradley, George Watterston, Col. J. J. Abert.

### **Committee of Arrangements.**

Gen'l A. Henderson, Walter Lenox, Lieut. M. F. Maury; Joseph H. Bradley, Chief Marshal; Robert Mills, Architect.

### **Contents of the Cornerstone Recess.**

Copies of the Constitution and of the Declaration of Independence; Messages of the Presidents, beginning with Washington; the portrait and inaugural address of each President; daguerreotypes of General and Mrs. Washington; a copy of the Bible; astronomical observations by M. Fontaine Maury, U. S. N., for 1845; journals of the Senate and House of Representatives of the Thirtieth Congress; list of the judges of the Supreme Court; an American flag; coat of arms of the Washington family; a set of United States coins, with specimens of Continental money; Harper's illustrated catalogue, and copies of newspapers from each State relating to Washington and the Monument.

**The following are copies of the memorial stone inscriptions:**

### **Described from South to North.**

**30 feet height.      FIRST LANDING.      East.**

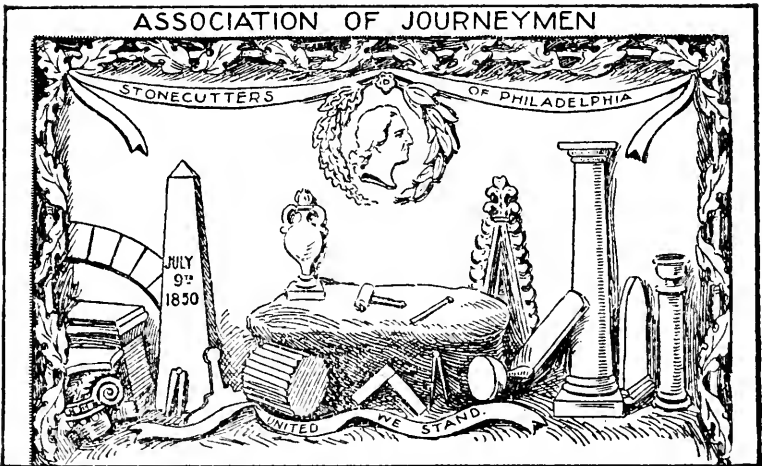
1. Presented by George Watterston, Secretary W. N. Monument Society, as a Testimonial of His Gratitude and Veneration.      A. D. 1849.

2. Presented by the NATIONAL GREYS of Washington, D. C.
3. Presented by the FRANKLIN FIRE COMPANY of Washington, D. C. Instituted A. D. 1827. "We strive to save."
4. LITTLE FALLS QUARRY, District of Columbia. Presented by Timothy O'Neale.
5. DELAWARE.  
First to Adopt Will Be the Last to Desert the Constitution.

1849.

6. MAINE.  
**40 feet height. SECOND LANDING. West.**

7. Presented by the COLUMBIA TYPOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, Instituted January, 1815, "As a Memento of the Veneration of Its Members for THE FATHER OF HIS COUNTRY."



8. ASSOCIATION OF JOURNEYMEN STONE CUTTERS OF PHILADELPHIA.  
July 9th, 1850.  
"United We Stand."

[Slightly mutilated.]

9. Presented by the GERMAN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY of the City of Washington, D. C. Instituted October 3d, 1836. Incorporated July 27, 1842. As a Memento of the Veneration of Its Members for THE FATHER OF HIS COUNTRY.

10. ALABAMA.  
A Union of Equality as Adjusted by the Constitution.

11. The State of LOUISIANA Ever Faithful to the Constitution and the Union.

12. NASHVILLE,  
Tennessee.

**50 feet height. THIRD LANDING. East.**

13. WASHINGTON LIGHT INFANTRY, Washington, D. C. Organized September 12th, 1836. Presented October 19, 1850.

14. GRAND LODGE OF MASONS, District of Columbia. Our Brother, George Washington.

15. ILLINOIS.  
State Sovereignty, National Union.

16. Presented by WASHINGTON NAVAL LODGE, No. 4, Ancient York Masons. J. Nokes, C. W. Davis, Committee.

✓ 17. STATE OF GEORGIA. The Union as It Was. The Constitution As It Is.

18. INDIANA. Knows No North, No South, Nothing but the Union.

**60 feet height. FOURTH LANDING. West.**

19. Presented by ANACOSTIA TRIBE, No. 3, I. O. R. M., D. C., on the 3rd Sun of the 3 x 7 Suns Worm Moon G. S. 5610.

20. I. O. O. F. GRAND LODGE OF THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS of the State of New Jersey to the Memory of Washington, THE FATHER OF HIS COUNTRY. We Command You to Visit the Sick, Relieve the Distressed, Bury the Dead, and Educate the Orphans. F. L. T.

21. WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Virginia. The Birth Place of Washington.

22. (The surface and inscription of this stone is entirely decayed. Nothing can be deciphered.)

23. NEW HAMPSHIRE.

24. SOUTH CAROLINA. [Slightly mutilated.]

**70 feet height. FIFTH LANDING. East.**

25. Presented by the Grand Division, Sons of Temperance, State of Virginia. 1850. Hand in Hand Union.

26. "GOD AND OUR NATIVE LAND" United Sons of America. Instituted, 1845. Pennsylvania. "Usque ad Mortem." "Lente Caute Firme."

27. Grand Division S. T. North Carolina. "Love, purity, .....ity.. [Stone decaying.]

28. CONNECTICUT. "Qui Transtulit, Sustinet." [Stone decaying.]

29. MASSACHUSETTS. "Ense Petit Placidam Sub Libertate Quietem."

30. 1776. NEW JERSEY.

**80 feet height. SIXTH LANDING. West.**

31. TO GEORGE WASHINGTON BY THE MARYLAND PILGRIMS ASSOCIATION. Organized Balto 1847.

32. R. W. Grand Lodge Of The I. O. O. F., Indiana. In God We Trust, Constitutional Liberty, The Earth For Its Domain And Eternity For Its Duration.

33. By THE INVINCIBLE FIRE Co. No. 5. Cincinnati, Ohio. 1850. THE MEMORY OF WASHINGTON.

34. MARYLAND. The Memorial Of Her Regard For The Father Of His Country And Of Her Cordial, Habitual, And Immovable Attachment To The American Union. "Crescite et Multiplicamini."

35. The City of Washington To Its Founder.

36. VIRGINIA Who Gave Washington To America Gives This Granite For His Monument.

[Stone showing signs of decay.]

**90 feet height. SEVENTH LANDING. East.**

37. From THE MECHANICS of Raleigh, N. C.

[Stone decaying, inscription very indistinct.]

38. THE ODD FELLOWS OF OHIO To The Memory Of Washington "Honor, Veritatis, et Benevolentiae Pretium Permanebit."

[Stone shows marks of decay.

39. LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas. [Marks of decay.

40. THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI to The Father of His Country. A. D. 1850.

41. THE STATE OF OHIO. The Memory of Washington and the Union of the States. "Sunte Perpetua."

42. THE TRIBUTE OF MISSOURI

To the Memory of Washington and a Pledge of Her Fidelity to the Union of the States.

[Some of the lettering mutilated.

**100 feet height. EIGHTH LANDING. West.**

43. To THE FATHER OF HIS COUNTRY.

Presented By The INDEPENDENT ORDER OF UNITED BROTHERS, of the State of Maryland, A. D. 1851.

[Some of the lettering and ornamental part mutilated.

44. FROM THE HOME OF KNOX BY CITIZENS OF THOMASTON, MAINE.

45. Contributed By The GRAND LODGE, I. O. O. F., of Virginia. A. D. 1851.

[Ornamental part slightly mutilated.

46. "Hope" RHODE ISLAND.

47. NORTH CAROLINA. Declaration Of Independence MECKLENBURG, May, 1775. "Constitution."

48. WISCONSIN. Admitted May 29, 1848.

**110 feet height. NINTH LANDING. East.**

49. In Token Of Respect For Washington As A Free Mason. By THE GRAND LODGE OF OHIO.

50. PETER FORCE.

51. By THE GRAND LODGE OF KENTUCKY To The Memory of WASHINGTON, The Christian Mason.

[Shows signs of decay.



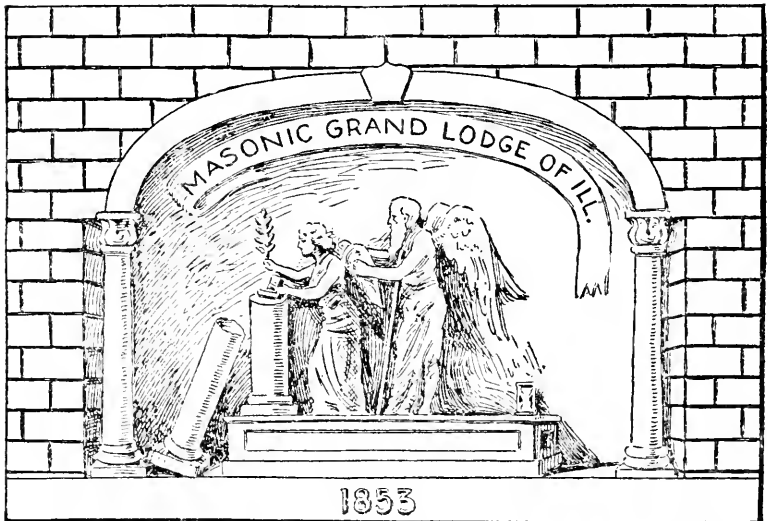
52. THE GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK. Nelson Randall, Grand Master. William H. Milner, Ezra S. Barnum, Finlay M. King, Committee.  
[Slightly mutilated.]
53. IOWA. Her Affections, Like The Rivers Of Her Borders, Flow To An Inseperable Union.
54. Nov. 12, 1852. From the Postmasters And Ast. Postmasters Of The State Of INDIANA. Dedicated To The Washington Monument, Washington. May His Principles Be Distributed Broadcast Over the Land And Every American B A D. P. O.
- 120 feet height. TENTH LANDING. West.**
55. PATMOS LODGE No. 20. MASONS. Ellicott Mills, Md., Feb. 22d, 1852.
56. I. O. of O. F. Philomathean Lodge No. 10. Mount Airy Lodge No. 235. Walker Lodge No. 306. Mount Horeb Encampment No. 18. German-town, Penna. MDCCCL.
57. S. of T. R. I.
58. CITY OF ROXBURY, MASS. The Birth Place Of Gen. Joseph Warren.  
[The damp and water threaten the stone with decay.]
59. CALIFORNIA. Youngest Sister of the Union Brings Her Golden Tribute to the Memory of Its Father.  
[In danger of destruction by water coursing over its surface.]
60. FROM THE CITY OF FREDERICK, MD. [Follows a lengthy inscription, which is illegible on account of indistinctness of the letters and insufficient illumination.]

**130 feet height. ELEVENTH LANDING. East.**

61. MOUNT LEBANON LODGE No. 226, A. Y. M., of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, Present This Block Of Native Marble As A Testimony Of Their Veneration And Respect For The Character And Services Of GEORGE WASHINGTON. A. L. 5851. A. D. 1851.

62. DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE.
63. WASHINGTON LODGE No. 21 Of The City Of New York. Instituted A. L. 5800. [Shows signs of mutilation.]
64. BY THE GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS of Maryland. Benj. O. Howard, M.W. P. G. M., Chas. H. Ohr, M. D., M.W.G. M., Enoch S. Courtney, R. W. J. G. W., Jno. W. Ball, R. W. J. G. W., Jos. Robinson, R. W. G. S., Samson Cariss, R. W. G. T., Chas. Gilman, M. W. P. G. M., Thos. H. Hicks, R.W. D. G. M., J. N. McJilton, D.D., W. G. C., Chas. B. Purnell, W. G. M. Com. to procure this stone: Chas. H. Ohr, M. D., J. N. McJilton, D. D., Alex. Gaddess, D. A. Piper, R. W. P. S. G. W., Wm. Bayley. 1850.
65. OAKLAND COLLEGE, Mississippi. 1851.
66. CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK. 1852.
67. FROM THE ALUMNI OF WASHINGTON COLLEGE, at Lexington, Virginia. The Only College Endowed By The Father Of His Country.
68. FROM THE GRAND DIVISION, Sons of Temperance, State Of Connecticut. A Tribute To The Memory Of Washington. "Love, Purity, Fidelity."
69. UNION SOCIETY, Hillsborough, North Carolina.
70. AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK. Incorporated For The Purpose Of Encouraging And Promoting Domestic Industry In Agriculture, Commerce, Manufacture, And The Art.
71. AMERICAN WHIG SOCIETY, College Of New Jersey, Princeton. A TRIBUTE TO WASHINGTON. [Stone in bad shape.]
73. I. O. O. F., MASSACHUSETTS.
- 140 feet height. TWELFTH LANDING. West.**
73. From Walter Gwynn, D. S. Walton, E. Lorraine, Was'n Gill, John C. McRae, J. M. Harris, W. G. Turpin, Engineers 2nd Divis'n Jas. River and Kana. Canal.

74. COMPANY I. 4th Regiment Infantry U. S. A. 1st March 1851.
75. FROM OTTER'S SUMMIT Virginia's Loftiest Peak To Crown A Monument To Virginia's Noblest Son.
76. FROM FORT GREENE, Battle Ground Of Long Island. A Tribute From The Fort Greene Guard of Brooklyn 1854.
77. MASONIC GRAND LODGE OF ILL. 1853.  
[Slightly mutilated.]
78. NEW YORK. Presented By Masterton And Smith, Morgans Marble Westchester County.
79. "Prosunt Omnibus" GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA Founded A. D. 1785. "Fratrem Meminisse" 1852. Georgia marble.



80. ANNO 1850. BY THE CITY OF BALTIMORE. May Heaven To This Union Continue Its Beneficence; May Brotherly Affection With Union Be Perpetual; May The Free Constitution Which Is The Work Of Our Ancestors Be Sacredly Maintained And Its Administration Be Stamped With Wisdom And With Virtue.

81. **GRAND LODGE OF ALABAMA.** A. D. VDCCCXXI.  
Alabama Marble. Presented by the Most Wor-  
shipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and  
Accepted Masons of the State of Alabama to The  
National Monument Society, Dec. 6th A. L. 5849.
82. **PENNSYLVANIA.** From D. O. Hitner's Quarry, Mont-  
gomery County. F. Derr, Norristown.

**150 feet height. THIRTEENTH LANDING. East.**  
[There are no memorial stones inserted at this  
landing.]

**160 feet height. FOURTEENTH LANDING. West.**  
83. Presented by **EUREKA LODGE 177 I. O. O. F.**  
City of New York.

84. **NEW YORK**  
"Excelsior."

85. **NEWARK, N. J.**  
[Ornamental sculpture mutilated in several places.]

86. Presented by **ATHENIAN LODGE 268, I. O. of O. F. of**  
Troy, N. Y.

87. **WARREN**  
R. I.

88. **OUR TRIBUTE**  
Lafayette Lodge No. 64 F. A. M. New York City  
Sep. 16 A. L. 5853. A. D. 1853.

**170 feet height. FIFTEENTH LANDING. East.**

89. **VERMONT**  
"Freedom and Unity"

90. **Sicut Patribus Sit Deus Nobis.**  
**Civitatis Regimine Donata A. D. 1822**

**BOSTONIA**  
Condita  
A. D. 1630.

91. **SALEM**  
Massachusetts

92. **CHARLESTOWN**  
The Bunker Hill Battle Ground.

93. NEW BEDFORD MASS.  
1851.
94. WASHINGTON LODGE of F. and A. M. ROXBURY,  
MASS.
- 180 feet height. SIXTEENTH LANDING. West.**
95. "Liberty Independence Virtue"  
PENNSYLVANIA  
Founded (1681)  
By Deeds Of Peace
96. Declaration of Independence Philadelphia July 4th  
1776. CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF PHILA-  
DELPHIA.
97. GRAND LODGE OF PENNA A. Y. M. "Ad Majorem  
Supremi Architecti Gloriam." Holiness To The  
Lord. From The Key Stone State A. D. 1851.  
A. L. 5851. [Slightly mutilated.]
98. The Surest Safeguards Of The Liberty Of Our  
Country Total Abstinence From All That In-  
toxicates. Sons Of Temperance Of Pennsyl-  
vania.
99. I. O. O. F. [The inscription, on account of the  
peculiar color and veins of the stone, and in-  
sufficient illumination, cannot be deciphered.]
- 190 feet height. SEVENTEENTH LANDING. East.**
100. To The Memory Of Washington. THE FREE SWISS  
CONFEDERATION. MDCCCLII.
101. GREECE. [Greek inscription translated]: "George  
Washington, The Hero, The Citizen Of The  
New And Illustrious Liberty: The Land Of  
Solon, Themistocles and Pericles—The Mother  
Of Ancient Liberty—Sends This Ancient Stone  
As A Testimony Of Honor And Admiration  
From The Parthenon."
102. SIAM.
103. BRAZIL, 1878.
104. WASHINGTON Dem Grossen, Guten Und Gerechten.  
Das Befreundete BREMEN.  
[Translation:] "To Washington The Great, Good  
and Just, By Friendly BREMEN."

105. **TURKEY.** [Turkish inscription translated:] "So As To Strengthen The Friendship Between The Two Countries, Abdul-Majid Kahn Has Also Had His Name Written On The Monument To WASHINGTON. 1269-1779 of the Hegira. Abdul-Majid, son of Mahomet Kahn. Written By The Court Poet Mustapha Izyt."
106. Presented By THE GOVERNOR AND COMMUNE of the Islands of Paros and Naxos, Grecian Archipelago Aug. 13th 1855.
- 200 feet height. EIGHTEENTH LANDING. West.**
107. FROM THE TEMPLARS OF HONOR AND TEMPERANCE. Organized Dec. 5th 1845. "Truth, Love, Purity and Fidelity." Our Pledge. "We will not make, buy, sell or use as a beverage, any spirituous or malt liquors, Wine, Cider, or any other Alcoholic Liquor; and will discountenance their manufacture, traffic and use, and this pledge we will maintain unto the end of life." Supreme Council of the Templars of Honor and Temperance. 1846.  
[Sculpture mutilated in several places.]
108. By the GRAND LODGE of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Virginia. Lo! She gave to this republic the Chief Corner Stone. Aug. 4 A. L. 5754.
109. GRAND LODGE of Maryland I. O. O. F. "Friendship, Love and Truth."  
Officers for the year 1850. I. H. T. Jerome M. W. G. M., S. McGeogh R. W. G. M., S. H. Wentz R. W. G. W., G. D. Tewkesbury R. W. G. S., W. Bayley R. W. G. F., J. Stockbridge W. G. M.  
Committee. R. Marley P. G. M., E. P. Holden P. G. M., N. T. Dushane P. G. M., W. Bayley P. G., J. C. Ninde P. G. [Slightly mutilated.]
110. Presented by the G. L. of the U. S. We command you to visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead, and educate the Orphan. Grand Lodge of the United States of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. [Rust stains.]

111. Presented by St. John's Lodge No. 36, F. A. A. M.,  
Richmond, Va.

112. Richmond, Virginia.

113. WEST VIRGINIA. "Tuum Nos Sumus Monumentum."  
[Rust stains.

**210 feet height. NINETEENTH LANDING. East.**

114. GRAND LODGE OF IOWA A. F. and A. M. 1876.

115. MICHIGAN. An emblem of her trust in the Union.  
[Lettering and coat of arms mutilated.

116. Grand Division of Ohio, Sons of Temperance,  
"Love, Purity, and Fidelity."

117. Presented by the GRAND DIVISION on behalf of the  
Sons of Temperance of Illinois, January 1st,  
1855. Grand Division, State of Illinois, S. of T.  
Inst. Jan. 8, 1847. "Love, Purity, and Fidelity."  
[Slightly mutilated.

118. I. O. O. F. Grand Lodge of Mississippi.

119. The Grand Lodge of the State of Mississippi To  
Their W. Brother George Washington.

120. The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of the  
State of Arkansas. "Ad gloriam fratris nostri et  
patris patriae."

121. KANSAS.

Kansas Territory, Organized May 20, 1851.

State admitted January 29, 1861

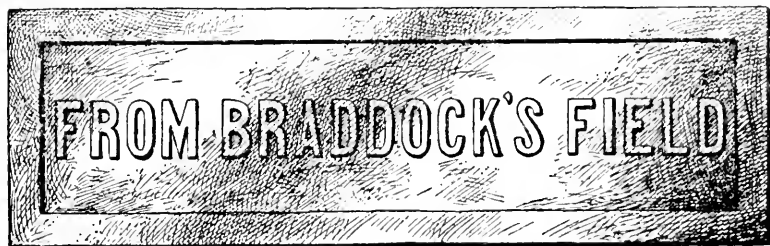
**220 feet height. TWENTIETH LANDING. West.**

122. All for our Country

NEVADA 1881

123. NEBRASKA'S TRIBUTE

"Equality Before the Law."



## 124. (Chinese inscription translated :)

## CHINA.

“ Su-Ki-Yu, by imperial appointment, Lieut. Governor of the Province of Fuh Kun, in his universal Geography says : It is evident that Washington was a remarkable man. In devising plans, he was more decided than Chin-Shing or Wu-Kwang, in winning a country, he was braver than Tsau-Tsau or Lin-Pi. Wielding his four footed falchion, he extended the frontiers thousands of miles, and then refused to usurp the regal dignity, or transmit to his posterity, but first established rules for an elective administration. Where in the world can be found such a public spirit? Truly, the sentiments of the three dynasties have all at once unexpectedly appeared in our day. In ruling the state, he promoted and fostered good customs, and did not depend on military merit. In this he differed from all other nations. I have seen his portrait, his air and form are grand and imposing in a remarkable degree. Ah, who would not call him a hero? The United States of America regard it promotive of national virtue generally and extensively neither to establish titles of nobility and royalty nor to conform to the age, as respects customs and public influence, but instead deliver over their own public deliberations and inventions so that the like of such a nation one so remarkable does not exist in ancient or modern times. Among the people of the Great West can any man, in ancient or modern times, fail to pronounce WASHINGTON Peerless?

“ This Stone is Presented by a Company of Christians and engraved at Ningpu in the Province of Che Heang, China, this Third Year of the Reign of the Emperor Heen Fung, Sixth Month and Seventh Day ” (July 12th, 1853.)



125. (Translation of the Japanese memorial stone :)

JAPAN

“Exported from the harbor of Simoda, in the province of Isu, the fifth month of the year Ansey Tora.” “April, 1853.”

126. TRIBUTE OF WYOMING TERRITORY

To The Memory Of Him Who By Universal Consent Was Chief Among The Founders Of The Republic.”

127. Holiness to the Lord

DESERET

128. MINNESOTA

129. CHEROKEE NATION 1850

130. MONTANA. “Oro y Plata”

131. STATE OF OREGON The Union

**TWENTY-FIRST LANDING.**

**230 feet height. East.**

132. THE GRAND LODGE OF I. O. O. F. OF KENTUCKY.  
“In Union there is strength.”

[Some of the letters are mutilated

133. Under the Auspices of Heaven and the Precepts of Washington, KENTUCKY will be the Last to give up The Union. “United we stand, divided we fall.” [Some of the letters mutilated.

134. Georgia Convention 1850.

“Wisdom, Justice, Moderation.”

135. From Hawkins County, Tennessee.

136. Presented by the Grand Lodge of the State of Florida.

137. TENNESSEE. “The Federal Union, it must Be Preserved.”

**TWENTY-SECOND LANDING.**

**240 feet height. West.**

138. AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION Instituted  
MDCCCXLVII Vincit Amor Patriae.

[Symbolical figures mutilated.

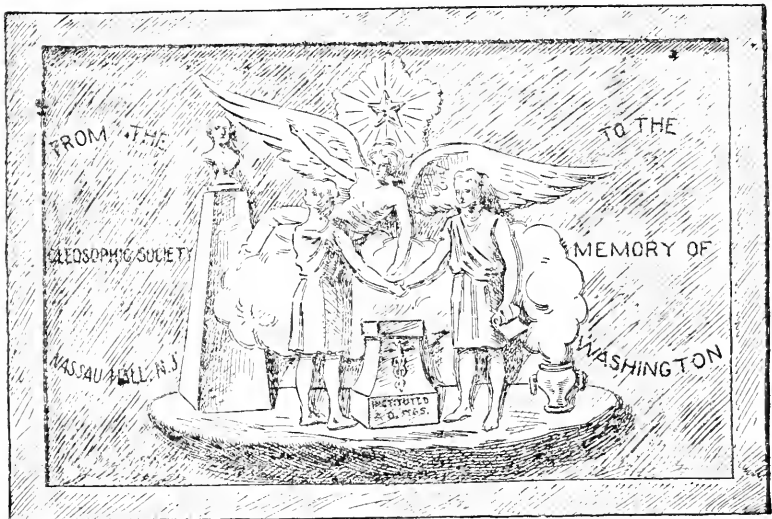
139. The Grand Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America in Session in Washington City, May 1852.
140. Presented by Tuscarora Tribe No. 5. To Pater Patriae 7th Sun, Hunting Moon Grand Sun 5615. Improved Order Red Men D. C.
141. From the Battle Ground Long Island 1776. Kings County, N. Y. 1853.
142. WALES. Fy Iaith, Fy Ngwlad, Fy Nghenedl. Cymory am byth.
143. Presented by the Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia, July 4th, 1870.
144. Presented by the United American Mechanics, Penna.
145. From Braddock's Field.

### TWENTY-THIRD LANDING.

250 feet height.

East.

146. Wilmington, North Carolina. Thalian Association.



147. PHILADELPHIA ENGINE COMPANIES: Hibernia, Northern Liberty, Vigilant, Delaware, Harmony, Reliance, Assistance, America, Diligent, Kensington, Franklin, Washington of Frankford, Humane, Washington, Friendship, Columbia, Hope.  
HOSE COMPANIES: Good Intent, Resolution, Humane, Perseverance, Neptune, Hope, Columbia, Southwark, Washington, Phoenix, Diligent, United States, Niagra, Northern Liberty, America, William Penn, Robert Morris.
148. Presented by the Department of Philadelphia. 1854. [Slightly mutilated.]
149. ENGINE COMPANIES: Philadelphia, Weccacoe, Good Will, Decatur, United States, Fellowship of Germantown, Good Intent, Globe, Fair Mount, Southwark, Mechanic, Western.  
HOSE COMPANIES: Independence, Pennsylvania, Lafayette, Marion, Schuylkill, Good Will, Western, Moyamensing, Franklin, Weccacoe, Kensington, Shiffler, Fair Mount, Ringgold.  
HOOK-AND-LADDER COMPANIES: Empire, Relief.  
COMMITTEE OF SUPERINTENDENCE: Peter G. Ellmaker, Francis Reilly, John S. Vance, William F. Smith, Samuel Floyd.  
[Tablet completely broken into pieces; some of the letters broken off.]
150. From the Citizens of the United States of America Residing in Foo Chow Foo, China. Feb. 22, 1857.
151. The Citizens of Stockton, San Joaquin Co., California. A Tribute of Respect to the Father of Our Country, George Washington, 1859.
152. Presented to the Washington National Monument by the Proprietors of the "Cincinnati Commercial." J. W. S. Browne and L. G. Curtiss. 1850.
153. From the — [words illegible]. Lowell, Mass.
154. A Tribute from the Teachers of the Buffalo Public Schools.
155. The Young Men's Mercantile Library Association of Cincinnati. Organized A. D. 1805. A. D. 1853.

2,400 Members. Proud to Honor Washington Contributes its Humble Quota to the Swelling Tide of National Gratitude. Ohio—First Born of the Ordinance of '87.—Every pulsation of the heart beats high, beats strong, For Liberty and the Union.

### TWENTY-FOURTH LANDING.

**260 feet height.**

**West.**

156. The Memory of the Just is Blessed. Prov. 10: 7. Presented by the Children of the Sunday Schools of the METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, in the City of New York, Feb. 22, '55.
157. Fire Department of the City of New York. Incorporated 20th March, 1798.
158. From the Sabbath School Children of the Methodist E. Church in the City and Districts of Philadelphia. 4th July, 1853. A Preached Gospel. A Free Press. Washington. We revere his memory. "Search the Scriptures." Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God. Luke XVIII 16, V. Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.—Prov. XXII 6, 5.  
[Lettering slightly mutilated.]
159. Washington Erina Guard. Newark, New Jersey.
160. By The Pupils Of The Public Schools Of The City Of Baltimore. A. D. MDCCCLI. . . (indistinct word) . . qui meruit ferat.
161. Cincinnati Company. Our War Is With The Elements. Roveb. (The inscription is in such small letters that it is very difficult to decipher.)
162. The Sons Of New England And Canada To Washington. [Follows an inscription, which on account of insufficient illumination, small letters, and the water having defaced the surface of the tablet, cannot be deciphered.]

### TWENTY-FIFTH LANDING.

**270 feet height.**

**East.**

163. From The Cliosopic Society, Nassau Hall, N. J. To The Memory Of Washington, Instituted A. D. 1705. [Symbolic figures slightly mutilated.]

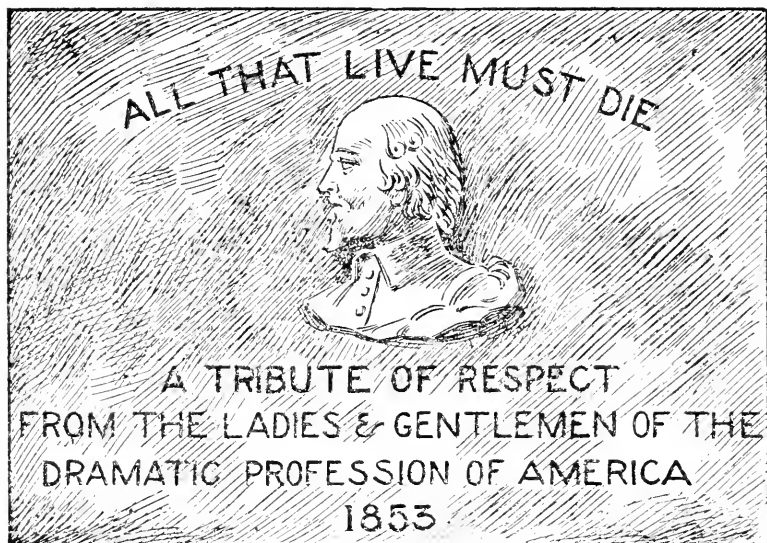
164. Continental Guard of New Orleans, La. To the Washington Monument, 22nd February, 1856 (Follow 163 names.) Continental Guard, Organized February 22nd 1855. [Inscription on account of small lettering indecipherable.]
165. Presented by The Employees of R. Norris and Son, Locomotive Works, Philadelphia. Feby. 22nd 1856. [Ornamental part mutilated.]
166. From The Home of Stark, By The Ladies Of Manchester, N. H.
167. From the Alexandria Library in Egypt. Brought to this country by G. G. Baker.
168. From the Jefferson Society of the University of Virginia To The National Washington Monument Jan. 7, 1850.

#### TWENTY-SIXTH LANDING.

**280 feet height.**

**West.**

169. To The Father Of His Country. The Addison Literary Society of the Western Military Institute, Drennon, Kentucky. "Non nobis solum, sed patriæ et amicis." [Slightly mutilated.]
170. Honesdale, Wayne County, Pennsylvania, 1853.
171. First Regiment of Light Infantry Mass. Vol. Militia. Boston, 1853.
172. To WASHINGTON An Humble Tribute From Two Disciples of Daguerre.
173. Hibernian Society of Baltimore. Hugh Jenkins, Pres., Jacob G. Davies, 1st V. P., William Gwynn, 2nd V. P. Rev. James Dolan, Chap'n. S. I. Donaldson, Counsel'r. Dr. J. H. O'Donovan, Dr. D. O'Donell, Physicians. Daniel J. Foley, Treasurer. Chas. M. Dougherty, Sec'y. Timothy Kelly, John McColgan, Edward Boyle, Chas. Pendergast, Robert Barry, James Kernan, Peter A. Kelly, Will Browne, James Mullen, Managers. Michael Roche, P. A. Kelly, J. Mullen, Committee. "Memor et Fidelis."
174. From the Citizens of Alexandria, Va. The Descendants of the Friends and Neighbors of Washington. 1851.
175. From Jefferson Medical College. By the Class of 1853-4.



176. "ALL THAT LIVE MUST DIE." A Tribute of Respect from the Ladies and Gentlemen of the Dramatic Profession of America. 1853.

**FIFTY-EIGHTH LANDING.**

**330 feet height.** East.

177. Marble block with the following inscription: Top OF STATUE ON CAPITOL.

There are altogether **176** memorial tablets; of these were contributed by

States..... 39, whereof 9 are in a mutilated or decayed condition.

Counties .....	7	"	0	"
Foreign Countries .....	10	"	0	"
Cities .....	20	"	7	"
Societies, Lodges, Associations, military and otherwise .....	90	"	32	"
Private individuals.....	9	"	1	"
Totally decayed and illegible .....	1	"	1	"
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	176		50	

With the aid of a little imagery, one can trace in the peculiar grain and apparently accidental happy laying of the marble blocks on the exterior at a height of about 150 feet on the east side of the Monument, the outlines of a semblance of an immense eagle with wings outstretched, as if protecting the LANDMARK OF LIBERTY against all danger and evil.

## HISTORY OF THE MONUMENT.

The Continental Congress, on the 7th day of August, A. D. 1783, unanimously resolved (ten States being represented):

“That an equestrian statue of General Washington be erected at the place where the residence of Congress shall be established, in honor of George Washington, the illustrious commander-in-chief of the armies of the United States of America during the war which vindicated and secured their liberty, sovereignty, and independence.”

On December 19, 1799, the day after the mortal remains of George Washington had been committed to the tomb, a committee of both Houses of Congress was appointed “to report measures suitable to the occasion and expression of the profound sorrow with which Congress is penetrated on the loss of a citizen first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen.”

In pursuance of the foregoing resolution, both Houses of Congress passed the following resolution on December 24, 1799:

“That a marble monument be erected by the United States in the Capitol, at the City of Washington, and that the family of General Washington be requested to permit his body to be deposited under it, and that the monument be so designed as to commemorate the great events of his military and political life.”

President Adams was authorized to correspond with Mrs. Washington, asking her consent to the removal and interment of her husband's remains beneath a monument, to be erected by the Government in the Capitol.

Mrs. Washington consented in the following beautiful words :

“Taught by the great example I have so long had before me, never to oppose my private wishes to the public will, I must consent to the request of Congress which you had the goodness to transmit to me; and in doing this I need not—I can not—say what a sacrifice of individual feeling I make to a sense of public duty.”

In 1800 a bill passed one House of Congress “to erect a mausoleum of American granite and marble, in a pyramidal form, 100 feet square at the base, and of a proportional height.”

In 1816 the subject was again discussed, but without effective results.

Congress again made an application in 1832 to the proprietors of Mount Vernon for the removal and deposit of the remains of Washington in the Capitol, in conformity with the resolution of 1799. The legislature of Virginia protested against the movement, and John A. Washington declined the proposal.

In September, 1833, a paragraph appeared in the “*National Intelligencer*” of the City of Washington, calling a meeting of the citizens of Washington to take the matter in hand. In response to that call a meeting of citizens was held at the City Hall on September 26, 1833. It was at this meeting that the Washington National Monument Society was formed, Chief Justice John Marshall, then seventy-eight years of age, having been elected its first President, and Judge Cranch the first Vice-President. George Watterston, who deserves to be signalized as the originator of the movement, was the first secretary.

In the advertisements inviting designs for the Monument from American artists, it was recommended that they should “harmoniously blend durability, simplicity, and grandeur.”

The design originally selected for the Monument was that submitted by Robert Mills, comprising, in its main features, a vast stylobate, surmounted by a tetrastyle pantheon; circular in form, and with an obelisk 600 feet high rising from the center.



In January, 1848, Congress passed a resolution granting a site on any of the unoccupied public ground of the City of Washington, to be selected by the President of the United States and the Washington Monument Society. The site on Reservation 3 was accordingly selected, and title to the land was conveyed to the Society.

On January 29, 1848, it was decided to postpone the laying of the cornerstone until the 4th of July 1848. Objections in the mean time having been made to the plan for the Monument as proposed by sculptor Mills, the Society, pursuant to a report from its committee, in the month of April of that year fixed upon a height of 500 feet for the shaft, leaving in abeyance the surrounding pantheon and base.

The cornerstone was laid in accordance with this decision of the Society on July 4, 1848, in the presence of the members of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the Government, foreign ministers and officers, and a vast concourse of citizens from all sections of the Union.

In 1854 the shaft had reached a height of 152 feet above the level of the foundation. Subsequently an addition of four feet was put upon the shaft, making its total height; 156 feet the whole executed at a cost of about \$300,000.

The treasury of the Society having been exhausted, and all efforts to obtain further sums having proved unavailing, the Society presented a memorial to Congress, representing that they were unable to devise any plan likely to succeed, and, under the circumstances, asking that Congress should take such action as it might deem proper. An appropriation of \$200,000 was recommended to be made by Congress "on behalf of the people of the United States to aid the funds of the Society," but complications of a political nature arose in the management of the affairs of the Society, the appropriation recommended was not made, and, for the same reason, a stop was put to the active prosecution of the work on the Monument for a number of years.

On February 26, 1859, Congress gave to the Society a formal charter of incorporation, and President Bu-

chanan presided at the first meeting of this new board, which was held in the City Hall, March 22, 1859. The Society again went vigorously to work, but the condition of the country during the decade from 1860 to 1870 rendered their efforts futile.

In 1873 the Society again presented a memorial to Congress, recommending the Monument to its favorable consideration. In the meantime the Society continued their appeals to the country for a certain gross sum deemed sufficient to complete the Monument. A measurable success met these efforts, and the Society discontinued these efforts only when, on August 2, 1876, an act of Congress appropriating \$200,000 to continue the construction of the Monument had become a law of the land.

On July 5, 1876, Senator John Sherman moved the adoption of a joint resolution, declaring, after an appropriate preamble, that the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled, "in the name of the people of the United States, at the beginning of the second century of the National existence, do assume and direct the completion of the Washington Monument in the City of Washington." A bill in pursuance of this joint resolution was passed unanimously in the Senate on July 22, 1876, in the House of Representatives without opposition on the 27th of July, and was signed by President Grant on August 2, 1876. By this act, which gave a Congressional expression to the national gratitude, a joint commission was created, to consist of the President of the United States, the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department, the Architect of the Capitol, the Chief of Engineers of the United States Army, and the First Vice President of the Washington National Monument Society, under whose direction and supervision the construction of the Monument was placed. According to a provision in the same act, the Washington National Monument Society transferred and conveyed to the United States, in due form, all the property, rights, and assessments belonging to it in the Monument, the conveyance being legally recorded in the proper court register.

From the early days of the construction there had been apprehension that the foundation of the Monument was not of sufficient size to sustain the column if carried to the height originally designed. On the 10th of April and 15th of June, 1877, a Joint Commission of Congress reported that the existing foundation was of insufficient spread and depth to sustain the weight of the completed structure, but that it was feasible to bring the foundation to the required stability by hooping in the earth upon which it stood. The weakness of the old foundation lay in the fact that it was too shallow and covered an area of ground insufficient to sustain the pressure of the completed work. The strengthening consisted in the enlargement of the foundation by spreading it over a greater area and sinking it a greater depth into the earth. The work of excavating beneath the Monument was commenced January 28, 1879, and the new foundation was finished May 29, 1880. The cost of the new enlarged foundation amounted to \$94,474.

The cornerstone of the Monument was laid July 4, 1848; the first marble block under Government supervision was set in the shaft August 7, 1880, and the last stone was placed at the level five hundred, August 9, 1884, thus consuming four seasons finishing the shaft. The topmost stone of the pyramidon was set December 6, 1884, thus essentially completing the obelisk.

On February 21, 1885, in the presence of the executive, legislative, and judicial officers of the Government, officers of the Army, the Navy, the Marine Corps, and the Volunteers, the Diplomatic Corps, eminent divines, jurists, scientists, and journalists, venerable citizens representing former generations, the National Monument Society, and the Masonic fraternity, the Washington Monument was dedicated. Senator Sherman, in the course of his oration, said :

“The Monument speaks for itself,—simple in form, admirable in proportions, composed of enduring marble and granite, resting upon foundations broad and deep, it rises into the skies higher than any work of human art. It is the most imposing, costly, and appropriate monument ever erected in the hon ————— li.”

Prayer was offered by the Rev. Henderson Suter, Rector of Christ Church, Alexandria, Va., where Washington worshipped.

James C. Welling, LL. D., President of Columbian University, read an address which had been prepared by W. W. Corcoran, First Vice President of the Washington National Monument Society, comprising the full history of the Monument.

The reading of this address was followed by the Masonic dedicatory ceremonies, which were performed by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the District of Columbia.

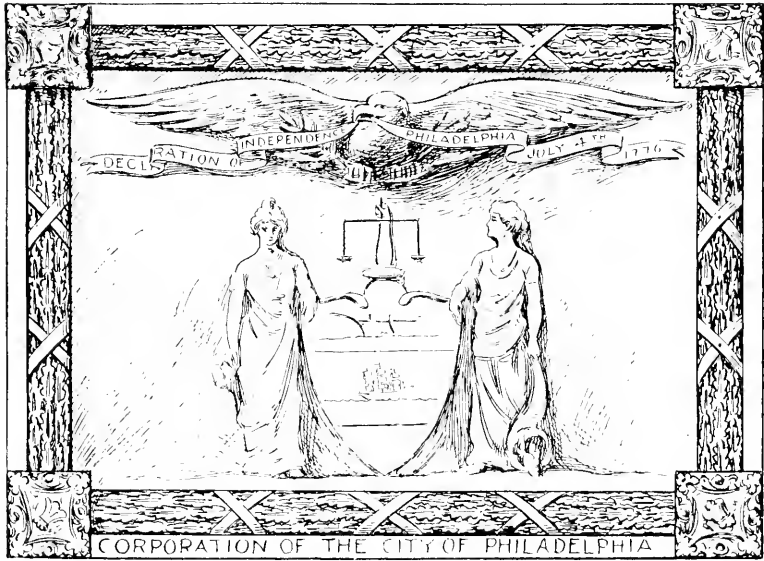
Col. Thomas Lincoln Casey, of the Corps of Engineers, United States Army, the Chief Engineer and Architect of the Monument, then formally delivered the structure to the President of the United States, making a short address, in which he reviewed the structural work of the Monument.

President Arthur accepted the Monument, making a short dedicatory address, after which a procession formed and moved to the Capitol. Here orations were delivered by Robert C. Winthrop of Massachusetts, and John W. Daniel, Senator of Virginia.

After the benediction had been pronounced the President of the United States, the members of the Supreme Court, and the invited guests retired from the hall at 5 o'clock.

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“Yonder shaft,  
Which States and peoples piled the stones upon,  
That from its top the very winds might waft  
To distant shores the name of Washington.”







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