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 On June 18, 1908 the work of construction was begun. The first stone, a large granite block weighing upward of 4 tons, was swung into place on the foundation. The work proceeded rapidly throughout the summer and autumn. The granite was brought from Maine and unloaded at Provincetown upon a float moored at the wharf. From the float the blocks were swung, by a derrick, upon trucks and dragged to the foot of the hill. Here, by means of a second derrick, they were removed, one by one, to a small railway car, and by means of rails laid over the face of the hill and a stationary engine at the summit, they were drawn rapidly to the top of the hill.

Here a third derrick unloaded the blocks and they were delivered to the stonecutters. Each stone was then cut to measurement and properly dressed. Each tier of stone was carefully planned, the stones being cut to a nicety and carefully lettered and numbered to show the exact spot for which each was designed. At the 17th or "Q" tier, the work was begun of placing in their proper places in the wall a number of memorial stones presented by societies of Mayflower descendants, by towns in eastern Massachusetts, and others. The work went forward with vigor until November 26, 1908, when the inclemency of the weather required it to be abandoned for the winter.



John R. Smith

Center School on the corner of Alden Street, right.
 Road coming down from Monument, left

On August 5th during a most severe thunderstorm, the granite car which was then standing empty upon the level space on top of the hill, was seen to be moving rapidly toward the brow of the hill. It had broken loose, probably through the medium of a lightning stroke, and in an instant it was rushing down the steep slope of the hill with terrific velocity. At the foot of the hill a heavy structure of timbers had been placed well-braced for just such an event, but the down-rushing car crushed this flat and bounded across the street. On the opposite sidewalk, Mrs. Rosilla Bangs, 85 years of age was at that instant passing. She heard the crash but was apparently paralyzed with fear and clung to the palings of the wooden fence. Unfortunately, she was directly in the path of the car and was instantly killed.



John R. Smith

----- The end of the first
 year's work, June 1909
 View from Ryder Street

30 Years Ago
 (From Hyannis Patriot, 1908)

July 14, 1938
Strike at Provincetown

Work on the new Piigrim monument at Provincetown was stopped for several days last week because of a strike of stonecutters. The differences have now been adjusted, and the stonecutters have banded together to form a local union.