



VOL. LIX, No. 9

SEPTEMBER, 1925

WHOLE No. 391

Dedication of Pilgrim Memorial Fountain at Plymouth, Massachusetts June 24, 1925

ON JUNE 24, 1925, national and state officers and members of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution gathered in Plymouth, Massachusetts, to dedicate the Pilgrim Memorial Fountain erected by the Society in honor of the women of the *Mayflower* as its part of the Pilgrim Tercentenary celebration of 1920. The town flung out its flags in recognition of the occasion, the main street being lined on both sides with upright rows of flags in sockets along the curbing, and many houses displaying the colors. The weather was perfect—clear, warm, and beautiful.

The exercises took place at 2 p. m. in the historic First Parish Church of Plymouth, which faces down Leyden Street from Burial Hill. The church was full to overflowing when promptly at 2 o'clock the ceremonies began with the entrance of the President General, Mrs. Anthony Wayne Cook, walking with Mrs. George Maynard Minor, Honorary

President General, and chairman of the Pilgrim Memorial Fountain Committee, and escorted by pages and color bearers carrying the flag of the United States, the State of Massachusetts, and the National Society, D. A. R., and followed by a long line of national and ex-national officers, speakers, State officers of the Massachusetts D. A. R., the state regents of many other States, members of the Pilgrim Memorial Fountain Committee and local committee of arrangements, town dignitaries, descendants of *Mayflower* passengers resident in Plymouth and other honored guests, marching two by two. The exercises were opened by Mrs. Minor, in whose administration as President General the memorial was undertaken and who had been appointed chairman of the Fountain Committee by the President General, Mrs. Cook, to carry the work to completion. After calling upon Mrs. Rhett Goode, Chaplain General, for the invocation, and the singing of the "Star Spangled Banner" by the

audience led by a male quartet, Mrs. Minor gave a brief address, outlining the history of the fountain and paying tribute to the Pilgrim Mothers of the *Mayflower*, stating:

It is an inspiration to see and greet this assemblage of Daughters of the American Revolution, gathered together to do honor to the memory of the heroic women of the *Mayflower*—the Pilgrim Mothers of this nation. The Pilgrims belong to no one state or section of the country; they belong to all of us, whether we come from north or south or east or west. Their spirit and ideals are the spirit and ideals of America. Therefore, when in 1920 came the 300th anniversary of their landing, the whole country united in a great national celebration to do them honor.

In this Pilgrim Tercentenary celebration the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, also had its share, and we are meeting here today to offer our tribute of love and remembrance to the memory of those noble and devoted women whose names honor our Fountain.

It is fitting at this time to give a brief history of our memorial.

To the Massachusetts Daughters belongs the honor of having initiated the movement which culminates in today's celebration.

It was at their suggestion that the Daughters of the American Revolution Congress of 1920 voted unanimously to take some part in the nation-wide celebration of this significant anniversary.

That same Congress elected the present speaker President General, hence it became her privilege to consider the best means of carrying into effect the vote. It seemed to her that a memorial of some kind was the form that our participation in this movement should take. This seemed more adequate to the occasion and more worthy of our Society than taking part in some program or pageantry that is soon forgotten. It also seemed to her that such a memorial should honor and recognize the women and little children who dared all and suffered all equally with the "Fathers" and who until then had been but little noticed.

To make a long story short, the idea of a memorial fountain was the result of an interview which she had in August, 1920, with the late Mr. Arthur Lord of the Pilgrim Tercentenary Commission, a commission created by the United States Congress to formulate plans for the celebration. At this interview, held here in Plymouth, Mr. Lord suggested a fountain as a form of memorial not taken by any

other society, and as being very fitting for any site within the proposed area of reclamation of the waterfront surrounding the Rock.

This idea was presented to the National Board at its meeting in October, 1920, with the result that the Board voted in substance that the Society erect a fountain as a memorial to the Pilgrim women, and that its cost should not exceed \$25,000.

The contract for the erection of the fountain was placed in the able hands of McKim, Mead & White of New York, and the \$25,000 has been ready in our treasury since April, 1922.

We do not need to go into further detail, nor to explain delays, which through no fault of our Society nor of any concerned, postponed the accomplishment of our purpose beyond the Tercentenary year. When our present President General, Mrs. Cook, took over the chairmanship of the Pilgrim Memorial Fountain Committee on her entrance into office in 1923, we were still awaiting the adjustment of certain local complications not connected with our Society before proceeding with the work. Our President General finally secured the location on which our fountain stands, one of the three sites originally suggested by the Pilgrim Tercentenary Commission, and from the beginning considered the most desirable by us had it not been surrounded as it was at that time by unsightly buildings and by a proposed parking space for automobiles. These features being removed, it is by far the finest of all the sites considered by our Fountain Committee, and we are fortunate in being able to secure it. It belongs to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in perpetuity as a part of the memorial park reservation on the waterfront, and is under the perpetual care of the Department of Public Works of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

With the location decided, it was a very simple matter for your present chairman to resume the work which our President General so courteously placed once more in her hands. It has thus been my privilege to serve with our President General, Mrs. Cook, in bringing this work to completion, and it gives me great pleasure to acknowledge once more her courtesy in making it possible.

My sincere thanks are also due to the members of our two Pilgrim Memorial Fountain Committees for their constant support and interest in our work. They have been most helpful in bringing it to this successful conclusion.

I want also to acknowledge the never-failing enthusiasm and courtesy that we have met with from Mr. William Mitchell Kendall of the firm of McKim, Mead & White, and from our sculptor, Mr. Jennewein, who is with us today,

and with them we share our pleasure over this happy consummation of all our efforts.

In conclusion, and before I have the honor of turning over these proceedings to our President General, I want to add my tribute to those women in whose honor we dedicate our memorial today. Without them this nation could never have been established. Could men alone have made homes, and could any colony have succeeded that was *not* founded on homes? On their monument we say:

"They brought up their families in sturdy virtue and a living faith in God without which nations perish."

After daring the perils of the unknown ocean and the still more unknown land, after sharing with the men all the hardships and privations and sufferings of a voyage of weeks in a cockle-shell of a boat, and landing on a desolate and savage coast in the dead of winter, inhabited only by wild men and wild beasts, after experiences that might well overcome the hardest and most gallant nature, they settled down to the making of homes, with a faith in the daily presence and guidance of God which sustained them in every hour of need. Through hunger and starvation, through sickness and death which exacted the toll of half their number, they toiled on and endured, looking only toward the goal of their high calling in Christ Jesus. We hear far more about the Pilgrim Fathers than we do about the Pilgrim Mothers. While in no way wishing to detract from the rightful glory of the Fathers, nevertheless, it is time that the world realized the part that these women played in civilization. It is time that history took note of them. Rarely, if ever, are they mentioned by name, except in the genealogies, or by specialists in Pilgrim history. Their names, with few exceptions, are not household words on our tongues, like those of Miles Standish, or William Bradford and the rest. They figure only in the passenger list of the *Mayflower* and only as "Mary" or "Katharine," etc., wife of So and So. The family names of but few are given. The names of some are literally unknown, not even the baptismal name being recorded. These latter figure solely as the wives of the fathers, without further identification. We may read the tragic list for ourselves. The wife of John Tilly—who was she? By what name was she called in those terrific years of sorrow and suffering? The maidservant of the Carvers—who was she? What faithfulness and courage must have been hers to follow her master and mistress into such an adventure. Yet her name is lost and her identity sunk in oblivion. We have inscribed on our Fountain all the names that are known; we have cut them into deathless stone, that all coming generations

may read and remember. And we have so indicated the nameless that they may share in the immortality of the rest. Unknown soldiers of a future nation, we salute you.

Time does not permit my following the fortunes of these women through the grim years. This high privilege belongs to others. But I would like to close by pointing out that all was not tragedy in those women's lives. Gladness as well as sorrow came to them. Little children were born to them in the wilderness. The joys of home life, even in a savage land, were theirs. The Pilgrims were men and women in all the vigor of youth or early maturity, strong to labor, keen to enjoy. They were not old and decrepit, hard and austere, as is so often painted. Love of life and work, and a child-like faith were theirs, and they passed these qualities on to their children and their children's children, until a nation grew up, moulded along their lines. The inspiration was theirs of a common struggle for high aims and spiritual values, the joy of freedom, the strength which comes from bearing one another's burdens, the friendship that is born of mutual suffering and rejoicing and there was the gladness of success won by united effort as the years passed by and the colony grew and prospered. Through such times and conditions the women ordered their households in women's way, and quietly, cheerfully, bravely, prayerfully, faced the daily task and—founded a nation. They laid their full half of the foundations of this country. They set the pace and blazed the trail which we have followed ever since, and, please God, we still will follow it as long as the nation shall endure. Liberty-loving and God-fearing, bringing up their families in "sturdy virtue," character-builders and home-makers, these women are our example and our inspiration to higher things. While their spirit endures in our homes and our churches and our schools this nation can never perish from the earth. We honor ourselves in honoring them today. Here let us dedicate ourselves anew to the preservation of their memory and the fostering of their spirit and their faith. May the soul which they gave to America endure through all the ages and lead all mankind to the blessings of liberty and the victory of the spirit in which they lived and moved and had their being, trusting God and loving righteousness better than great riches and material power. God grant that we, too, may hold fast to that "living faith in God without which nations perish."

I come now to the very pleasant duty of turning over this meeting to one whom we are all anxious to hear from, one who has led our Society with honor and success, and one for whom we wish all the highest achievements

which the future may hold in store. It is her rightful privilege to preside over this meeting, to conduct its exercises, and to bring it to its successful conclusion.

I have the great pleasure of presenting our President General, Mrs. Anthony Wayne Cook.

The President General, in her interesting address, paid glowing tribute to the womanhood of the Pilgrim women and appealed for a perpetuation of their ideals of home and family life. She said:

It is a privilege to be here today upon this significant occasion. Five years of untiring devotion and of earnest endeavor on the part of our National Society are now come to a splendid fruition.

This should be, and I know is, a justly proud and happy day in the life of Mrs. George Maynard Minor, who has so fittingly been the able chairman for the Daughters of the American Revolution of the committee in charge of this project. Not only was the idea of erecting this fountain to perpetuate the memory of the heroic Pilgrim Mothers of the *Mayflower* conceived by Mrs. Minor during her term as President General of the Daughters of the American Revolution, but the necessary funds incident to its successful completion were also raised during her incumbency in office. Thus, in a very special sense this fountain is a tribute for all time to her patriotism and ability, as well as a memorial to the Pilgrim Women whose services it commemorates.

Those of us whose lives seem to have been directed toward an active participation in patriotic education and endeavor, are increasingly impressed with the value of such significant memorials as this one to the Pilgrim Mothers.

In typifying the ideals of the past we give form and substance to that which we would realize in the present and desire for the future. Over three hundred years have elapsed since the Pilgrims landed from the *Mayflower* upon the shores of the New World with high hopes and the devout determination that they would establish for themselves and their posterity the political and religious principles which they held to be the inalienable rights of free men.

Accompanying them upon this fearless quest were the women of their families—women who, during their girlhood in Old England and the time of their sojourn in Holland, had known the not inconsiderable comforts of the civilization of that era.

Forsaking their homes, their native land, all that custom and environment had made most

dear to them, they accompanied their husbands upon that journey across none too well charted seas into the perils and dire privations of a new land made up of an almost virgin wilderness and inhabited only by savages.

The rigors of cold, privation and unimaginable hardship which they were compelled to undergo during that first seemingly interminable winter and spring, crushed the life out of their bodies in many instances, but it is to their everlasting credit that it failed to break their courage or their marvelous sweetness and strength of character.

The Pilgrim Fathers were a godly company of brave men and true, whose like the world seldom produces. Battling against the terrors of starvation, biting cold, the treachery of unfriendly Indians and the insurmountable obstacles of illness and death, they held fast to their faith in God and their determination to maintain themselves in this New England where they had elected to establish their homes.

But the world has come to know that, doughty as were their souls, and firm as were their convictions, they never could have kept the faith and finished the established course, had it not been for the love, the tenderness, the sympathy and the spiritual morale of the Pilgrim Mothers. It was they who never failed in the crucial hours of discouragement and of threatened defeat. Theirs is the great unwritten epic of that marvelous achievement. Glorious as was its success, most inglorious would have been its failure but for the fervent courage and the undying hope which they bequeathed even in death to their husbands, their sons and their daughters.

It is not so much to their heroism, dauntless as it was, as it is to the ineffably sweet, sterling character of their womanhood, that we, the Daughters of the American Revolution, bow our heads in tribute today.

Not in the history of the world is there a more shining example of wives forsaking all else and cleaving only unto their husbands, or of their following the Bible injunction, that "Thy ways shall be mine."

We hear much in this age of new freedom and of equality among the sexes, "of finding one's self," "of living one's life," "of expressing one's individuality and of not surrendering it at marriage." In this latter connection indeed the Lucy Stoner cult would dissuade our young women of today from assuming their husbands' names in marriage. Victims of some strange inferiority complex, they would persuade our feminists not to submerge their names and their fame at the altar. Children are to respectively refer to their fathers as Mr. Modern and to their mothers as Mrs. Feminism. The State Department is even

asked to issue passports to husband and wife under different designations. Such movements as these, ephemeral as they are, constitute an attack upon the family as a unit and as an institution and upon the honor and credit of the father's name established since the time when God gave Moses the ten commandments upon Mount Sinai.

There is no more vital opportunity for constructive work among the Daughters of the American Revolution than for them to steadfastly wage a constructive campaign against the strange "ism" "cults," social and political, that would in the name of "self expression" and of "personal liberty" lead the innocent and the foolish into the dangerous morasses of emotional license and depravity and make of them standard bearers of bolshevistic and communistic propaganda.

Today, as we think about the Pilgrim Mothers and of the priceless ideals they helped to establish for their progeny and the nation, I wonder if we women of today are as true to real love's high standards, if we are as earnestly seeking "a faith's pure shrine." When the real history of our day shall be written by the truthful and the wise, let us ask ourselves, can it be said of us, as it was of the Pilgrim Mothers, they taught their children self-control, modesty, thrift, industry and all the principles of right living, including a firm belief in God. Let us take counsel with ourselves too, as to whether we are sufficiently realizing the need for and the value of standing by, of following to the ends of the earth if need be, and of whole-heartedly co-operating with men of our families in the everyday concerns of life as well as in the pursuit of occupations which are of mutual concern to ourselves, to our homes, to our communities and to our nation.

I wonder, too, whether in this fast-moving twentieth century of ours, in this age of rapidly changing valuations, if we are giving our children sufficient love and tenderness, whether in truth we are seriously enough giving ourselves to the business of character-building.

Certainly it behooves both the men and the women of America to see to it that we do not in our generation sacrifice to the pacifist and the communist the bulwarks of liberty, justice, and righteousness which were established for us by the Pilgrim Fathers and Mothers and those brave men and women of our nation's early history who came after them.

On this coming Fourth of July let us keep the fires of liberty brightly burning upon our own hearths and demonstrate to a waiting, watching world that we are likewise committed to those selfsame principles which actuated the Pilgrims of 1620 by registering ourselves for service in the Defense Test Day

or Muster Day celebrations of our respective localities. By so declaring our constancy to our tenets of democracy and our principles of constitutional government shall we prove ourselves worthy to enjoy the benefits for which the Pilgrims held their own well-being, "as dust in the balance against their sense of high duty and their fealty to high ideals."

In consecrating and dedicating this memorial to the women of an earlier time and the ideals for which they and their families dared all and risked all "that freedom should hold aloft an undimmed torch in this wide land," let us consecrate ourselves anew to our country and our homes. Let us show that we of this day and time are worthy to follow in their footsteps as helpmates and mothers, let us care as is right for the things of the body; but let us show that we care even more for the things of the soul, so that we shall keep inviolate the rich heritage that they have bequeathed us.

The hymn, "O Beautiful, My Country," was sung by the audience and greetings were given by Miss Isabel Wyman Gordon, State Regent of Massachusetts, and by Mr. William T. Eldredge, first selectman of the town of Plymouth. The historical address of the day was then delivered by the Rev. Ashley R. Leavitt, pastor of the Harvard Congregational Church of Brookline, Mass. This was followed by the singing of Kipling's "Recessional," during which the officers and speakers marched out in the order in which they entered, and proceeded down Leyden Street to the fountain, where the dedicatory exercises were held. It was an inspiring and brilliant scene.

Along the entire length of this historic street, laid out by the Pilgrims three hundred and more years ago, stretched the long procession of D. A. R. officers in their bright summer frocks and wearing the blue and white ribbons denoting their rank, headed by the President General and Mrs. Minor and escorted by the Plymouth band playing martial music and the group of pages all in white with blue shoulder sashes and carrying flags. The street was lined on both sides by spectators and flags flew overhead from win-

dows along the route. After the officers came the congregation of Daughters and many hundreds of spectators bringing up the rear. On reaching the waterfront the whole procession swung left, passing the Rock under its classic colonnade and proceeding to the fountain, which holds a commanding position on the corner of North and Water Streets overlooking the harbor a few hundred feet to the left of the Rock. The town of Plymouth had policed the streets and the space surrounding the fountain, keeping it clear of the crowds that had collected. On reaching the fountain, the band took up its position on the right, the pages with the colors in front of them, while the President General, Mrs. Cook, with Mrs. Minor and General Leroy Sweetzer, representing the Governor of Massachusetts, halted in front of the fountain, allowing the rest of the procession and the spectators to mass themselves around them.

After the singing of "America the Beautiful" by the audience, accompanied by the band, the President General made the address of presentation in behalf of the Society and General Sweetzer, speaking for the Governor, accepted the fountain in behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Mrs. Cook then presented the sculptor of the figure of the Pilgrim Mother, Mr. Jennewein, who came forward and bowed his acknowledgments, but modestly declined to speak. After this Mrs. Minor announced the gift of a wreath presented by Colonel Walter Scott in honor of the Pilgrim Mothers, while two pages brought it forward. The exercises closed with the singing of "America" and the benediction by the Rev. Alfred R. Hussey, pastor of the First Parish Church, after which an informal reception was tendered to the members and invited guests by Mrs. Charles L. Willoughby.

At 12:30 o'clock, preceding the exercises in the church, the President General, National and ex-National officers, the chairman and members of the Fountain Committee, the visiting State Regents, the State officers of the Massachusetts D. A. R., the speakers, and other invited guests, were entertained at luncheon at the Bradford Arms by the ten nearby Chapters of Massachusetts.

The fountain is of Deer Island granite and consists of a plain and massive square shaft supporting a lofty bowl at a height of about twelve feet, from which water pours in continual streams into a pool below. On the side of the shaft facing the harbor is the life-size figure of the Pilgrim Mother by the noted sculptor, Mr. C. P. Jennewein, of New York. It is cut in Knoxville marble and in its plain and simple dignity, dressed in Pilgrim garb, the figure expresses in face and attitude the faith, patience, strength, endurance and devotion of those pledged as were the Pilgrims to sacrifice and suffering in a worthy and a noble cause. The woman is depicted in the prime of life. On the opposite side of the shaft are the names of the women passengers of the *Mayflower* in whose honor the fountain is erected. Beneath them is the inscription: "They brought up their families in sturdy virtue and a living faith in God without which nations perish." On the rim of the lower pool is a bronze tablet bearing the inscription: "Erected by the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, in Honor of the Heroic Women of the *Mayflower*. 1620—1920." Granite benches and a simple scheme of planting form an attractive setting for the fountain, which takes its place among the monuments on Plymouth waterfront as a work of which our Society may well feel justly proud.



PILGRIM MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN ERECTED AT PLYMOUTH, MASS., BY THE NATIONAL SOCIETY, DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, IN HONOR OF THE WOMEN OF THE *MAYFLOWER*