

a landmark from our forefathers

The National Monument to the Forefathers in Plymouth, MA

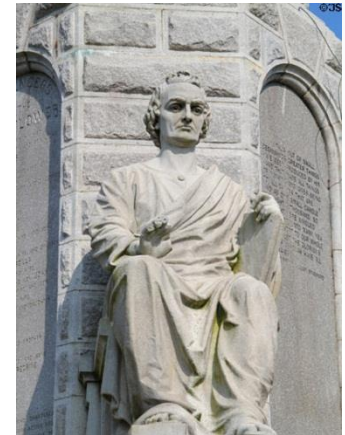
<http://travelphotobase.com/u/MA/MAPM.HTM>



Faith



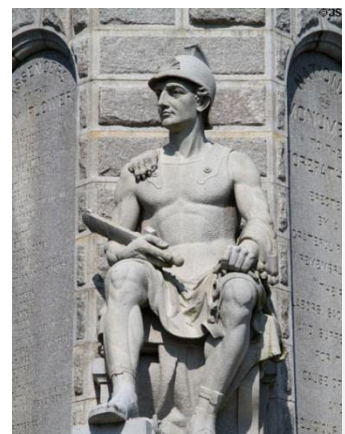
Morality



Law



Education



Liberty

The National Monument to the Forefathers in Plymouth, MA



...Out of their trial and sorrows we pluck prosperity and happiness; from their oppression springs our freedom...It is for this we bid the monumental shaft rise to Heaven. It is for this we are assembled by thousands to cheer on the work, and implore the blessing of Heaven upon its progress and its completion.” – Remarks at the 1859 Celebration in Plymouth.

“In the name of the Fathers we dedicate this monument and ourselves. For ages it will stand the enduring witness to grave and resolute conduct; to privations and sacrifices; to thrift and frugality; to domestic love and unaffected piety; to rectitude in thought as well in life; to earnest principles and true beliefs; to Christian fidelity and faith...here and now we rededicate ourselves to more fervent love for man as man; to a braver allegiance to truth for truth’s sake, and this ‘in the name of God’ and Amen and Amen!” – William C.P. Breckinridge, 1889 dedication.

The National Monument to the Forefathers in Plymouth, MA



1. Began as a gift in 1794 during George Washington's administration.
2. It is one of the longest projects from conception to completion in memory of national history.
3. It is the largest American solid granite monument standing eighty-one feet tall.
4. It was completed after the civil war (1865) and dedicated in 1889 .

The Statue of Faith



1. The Open Bible: The Geneva version was the first Bible in English, and included chapters and verses. They had fought to earn the freedom to read the Bible for themselves. The Bible was the inspired and infallible word of God with truth and practical applications.
2. The Raised Forefinger: The Pilgrims believed that there is only one way to the Father and Heaven, and that is through Jesus Christ.
3. The Star on the Forehead: depict the high place the intellect and mind had among reformers. The mind was a gift from God, and though fallible to sin, could be guided by the revelations of God's word through careful and logical application of truths to practical situations faced by an individual in life.
4. The Foot: left foot stepping forward on Plymouth Rock.
5. The Look: easterly direction, where they came from.
6. Paid for by the Governor of Plymouth, William Ames.

The Statue of Morality



1. First seated figure, no eyes - explaining internal faith. Looking heavenward to gain strength from God and the Bible. Their moral convictions brought them into conflict with their age.
2. Hold the 10 commandments: the first 4 commandments to define relationship with God, the other 6 to humanity.
3. Collar of Morality: symbol (like the breastplate worn by the High Priest) to note that each Pilgrim was a priest before God.
4. Left side stature: The Prophet (Old Testament) to depict the Pilgrims heard a call from God to leave England.
5. Right side stature: The Evangelist (New Testament) to depict the desire to build a society to exercise their faith (the evangelist takes seed from the Bible and throwing on the ground, a common symbol for preaching the gospel).
6. Paid for by the State Legislature of Massachusetts (the legislature and the public servant ought to be a clear example of morality).

The Statue of Law



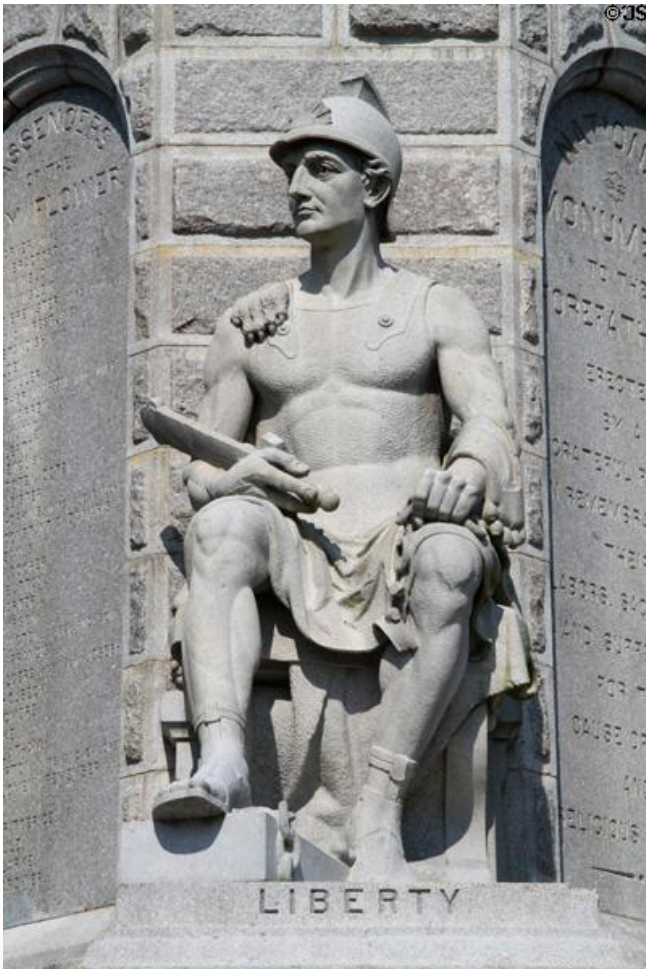
1. One hand is extended toward the victim in mercy, the other holds the statue laws of society. All are equal before the law, no special privileges due to birth, wealth or social status. Note: the Pilgrims executed one of their own (John Billington the elder) when such person committed willful murder of a native American.
2. The combination of law with stern justice practicing due process as described in the Bible (with two or three witnesses) and equity in the same court insured that the punishment would fit the crime (improvement from England).
3. The statue was paid for by a grant from a group of Connecticut lawyers.
4. Strong connections between Connecticut State Constitution and the Pilgrim ideas of law (free enterprise, liberty, God given rights protected by government, private property, public recording of deeds, freedom of expressions, marriage and the home as the cornerstone of society).
5. Noah Webster's Sketches of American Policy, suggested before George Washington that the United States Constitution be similar to Connecticut. It was Roger Sherman from Connecticut that later broke the deadlock at the (National) Convention to adopt a bicameral legislature for our American Constitution.

The Statue of Education



1. Education of their children was one of the major concerns in which the Pilgrims risked coming to the new world.
2. She is wearing wreath of learning on her head, indicating the high expectations placed upon the youth. Strict discipline was enforced and attitudes corrected by parents long before bad habits and behavior would be permanently formed.
3. Almost everyone owned a Bible and as a group they owned a remarkable volume of books. They maintained high literacy rates.
4. Two sides statues (wisdom and youth) showed their belief that education brings wisdom and that it is the parents responsibility to maintain innocence and purity of child training and to provide the facts in learning so that their children would not be lead astray by bad examples.

The Statue of Liberty



1. The sitting state depicts the progression of liberty from the internal (religious) to the external (civil).
2. The slain lion on the back of Liberty is a symbol both of Satan from a theological point of view and tyranny from an historic point of view. The Pilgrims defeated the lion of both spiritual and natural oppression.
3. The broken chains about the ankles and wrists depicts liberty from the chains of oppression. The Mayflower Compact states the “purpose of civil government is to protect the God-given liberty and equal rights common to all”.
4. The sword is held in a defensive position. They believed in defending themselves, but not aggressively begin a war that was unnecessary.
5. The Pilgrims relied upon their character, attitude, and fortitude as internal strengths. Regardless of whether we believe everything these forefathers believed, we must respect and learn from their convictions to abide by these peacefully, and through, time overthrow tyranny in both church and state.

Governor William Bradford



“Lastly (and which was not least) a great hope & inward zeall they had of laying some good foundation (or at least to make some way therunto) for ye propagating & advancing ye gospell of the Kingdom of Christ in those remote parts of ye world, yea, though they should be but even as stepping stones, unto others for ye performing of so great work.”