

# Pilgrim Monument: High and Mighty

By **DOUG FRASER**  
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PROVINCETOWN — It was a far cry from the thundering salvo from the eight battleships that greeted President **Teddy Roosevelt** as he entered the harbor 100 years ago.

But August 21, 2007, in a day laden with symbolism, two cannon salutes fired by the tall ship *Kalmar Nyckel* were enough. White puffs of smoke were followed by booms that echoed along the waterfront, announcing the arrival of the ferry *Provincetown II*, which carried dignitaries and hundreds of invited guests to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone for the Pilgrim Monument.

"They were bold, daring, driven, and this spot changed the world forever," U.S. Sen. **John Kerry**, D-Mass., said of the Pilgrims, to the hundreds gathered at the base of the 252-foot-tall monument.

## Mayflower Compact

Kerry and others, including state Sen. **Rob O'Leary**, D-Barnstable, and state Rep. **Sarah Peake**, D-Provincetown, hearkened back to those who landed first in Provincetown, in November 1620, following a two-month Atlantic crossing. At anchor in Provincetown Harbor, they composed the Mayflower Compact, a document that detailed how they would govern by majority rule, and whose spiritual descendant is the U.S. Constitution.

"We are a great nation because of what began on this spot," Kerry said.

In August of 1907, Roosevelt sailed from Long Island in the presidential yacht *Mayflower*, escorted by Navy torpedo boats and came ashore with a landing party of 1,500 Marines who lined the streets from MacMillan Wharf up to High Pole Hill, where the monument would be built. It was not actually finished for another three years, and President **William H. Taft** presided over that dedication ceremony on Aug. 5, 1910.

"I don't know whether it's appropriate or not, but you look smashing," Provincetown's official town crier, **Ken Lonergan**, said to the red-fezzed Shriners, the white-gloved Freemasons in top hats, tails and gold-brocaded aprons, and a smattering of Minutemen as they disembarked from the ferry.

Yesterday's parade followed Roosevelt's route. Lifelong Provincetown resident **Frances Raymond**, 102, was the only one who attended both the ceremony a century ago and the centennial yesterday.

**Tiffany Rose Petty**, 7 weeks old, might be the only one along yesterday's parade route with a shot at seeing the bicentennial. Tiffany hardly batted an eye at the loud volley of five long rifles from a Colonial fife band and musket brigade from the Aleppo Shrine in Wilmington that periodically announced the marchers' progress through the town.



PHOTO BY DAVE SISLER

## The mark of home

"I think this is important, for kids especially," said **Phoebe Butler**, who was holding Tiffany. Butler said she thinks such ceremonies give children a sense of historical significance.

Freemasons were present at the laying of the original cornerstone and helped coordinate yesterday's events with the Cape Cod Pilgrim Memorial Association and the Pilgrim Monument and Museum staff. Although the Freemasons originally were a guild of tradesmen, their role in laying cornerstones has long been symbolic.

Still, their ceremony yesterday, blessing a memorial cornerstone, was the centerpiece of a day of speeches and parades that formed a direct link with the past.

Of course, many in the audience held a decidedly non-historic affection for Provincetown's replica of an Italian bell tower.

Dressed in what he thought of as 1907 attire of cardigan sweater, wireless spectacles, with hair parted in the middle, Provincetown resident **Brian McNaught** described coming over Pilgrim Heights and spotting that familiar marker on the Provincetown skyline.

"Everyone, when they see it, their heart jumps and they know they are home," he said.

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DEPUTY GRAND MASTER, **Joseph Mozzone**, holds the cup of corn to be poured on a new commemorative cornerstone, as is traditional in the Fraternity's building dedications.

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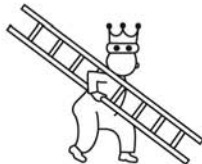
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