

HISTORY OF THE OBELISK.

CENTURY MARKED BY MANY EVENTS OF NATIONAL INTEREST.

The idea originated—Early Plans and How They were Changed—Congressional Appropriations at Last necessary—The Monument Society.

The United States in Congress assembled, passed this statute to be erected in the year 1850 in honor of George Washington, the illustrious commander-in-chief of the armies of the United States of America, whose life and death were devoted to the cause of his country's independence.

The death of Washington, in 1799, served to remind Congress of its remission, and on the 21st of December of that year a resolution was adopted that a marble monument be erected to the memory of the illustrious patriot.

The first move in this matter was made by the citizens of Washington, who met at the City Hall on the 21st of September, 1833, and organized the National Washington Monument Society, as they called themselves.

Among the public-spirited and patriotic citizens of the Nation, who were the first to give to the monument to the memory of Washington, at the seat of the Federal Government, the following names are mentioned:

The society has included in its membership not only many of the first citizens of the Nation, but also many who were prominent in the various branches of the Government.

The original plan of the monument, as originally conceived, was to be a shaft of white marble, 100 feet high, 30 feet in diameter at the base, and 15 feet in diameter at the top.

The first design was selected by President of the monument, and was a shaft of white marble, 100 feet high, 30 feet in diameter at the base, and 15 feet in diameter at the top.

tion, in the year 1850, and passed through the hands of the architect, which was intersected at right angles at almost the exact spot selected for the site of the proposed monument by a line due west from the center of the city.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE CORNER-STONE. In November, 1847, the Monument Society passed a resolution to lay the corner-stone of the monument on the 22nd of July, 1850.

LAYING THE CORNER-STONE. An imposing and important event in the history of the monument.

The laying of the corner-stone of the monument (July 4, 1850), was an event in the annals of the new capital. It was estimated that fully 20,000 people were present.

His lady the winds shall sing, While dimmish orbs shall visit thee, To guard him in his dreamless sleep.

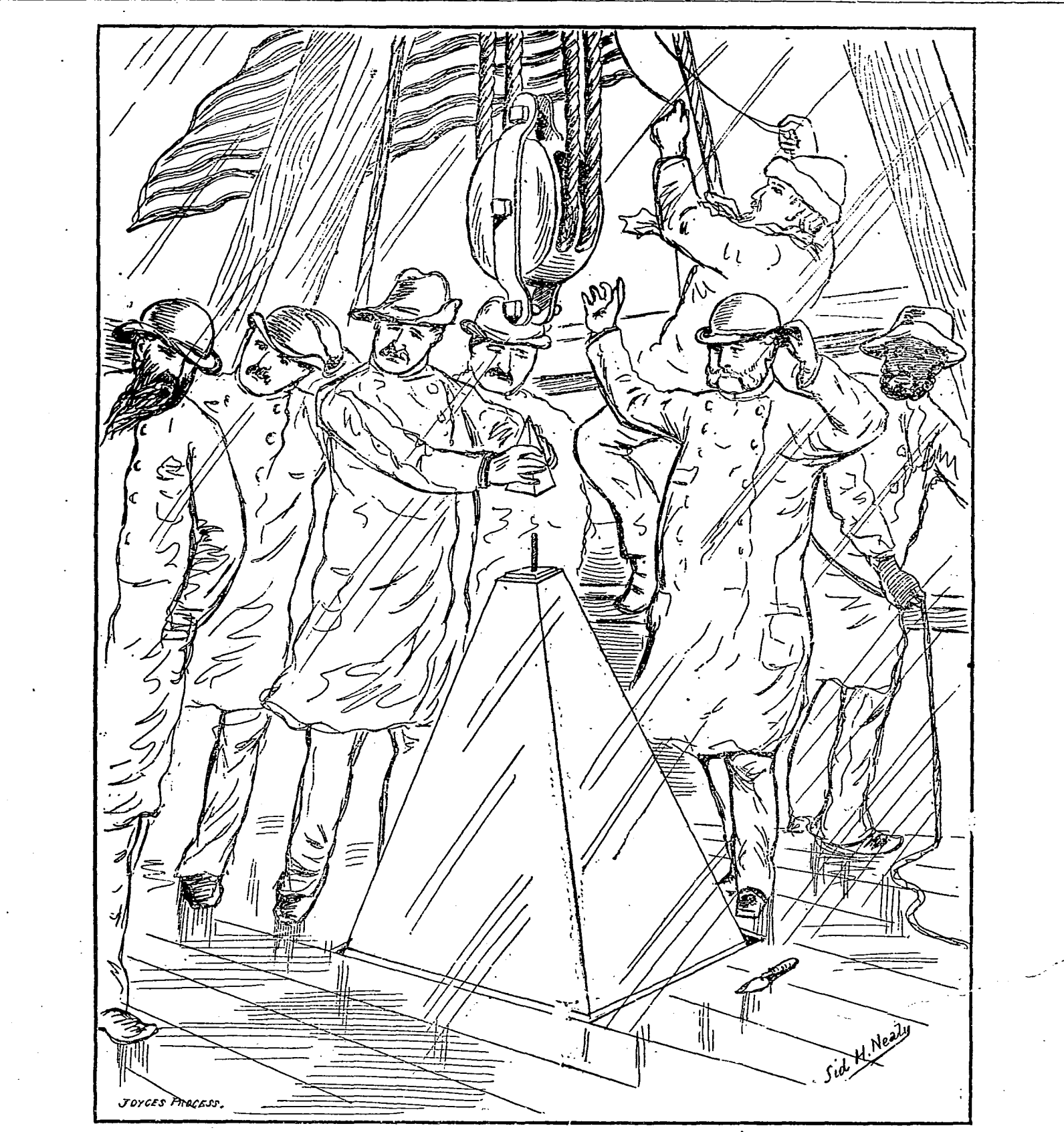
others of the following persons who have lived to see the completion of the great shaft, at whose corner-stone laying they were young and active participants:

BOARD OF MANAGERS. Maj. Gen. W. Scott. Peter Faneu. Gen. N. T. Bowen. William A. Bradley. Col. J. J. Abert. P. R. Fendall. Col. J. H. Smith. Wm. H. Hunt. Gen. W. W. Corcoran. Wm. F. Mury. Thomas Cary. M. F. Maury.

COMPLETING THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT—LAYING THE CAP-STONE. The work on the monument now pressed favorably on by the management of its affairs and a new board of managers was elected, and it was claimed at the time, illegally, and before the terms of the original contract had expired.

THE BEGINNING OF THE END. Work recommenced by strengthening the Foundation. For fully one-quarter of a century the shaft stood (150 feet high) in an incomplete condition, and known, somewhat in derision, as "the great unfinished."

SETTING THE CAPSTONE. The Event Which Marked the Completion of the Greatest Monument. It was a singular coincidence that the same day of the week which marked the beginning of the new work on the monument should also have marked its completion.



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Mr. B. H. Green. Capt. Gen. W. Davis. Supt. P. H. McLaughlin. Dennis O'Leary. Col. L. M. Casey. James Hogan. Lewis O'Brien.

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select committee reported in favor of an appropriation of \$200,000 on the 2d of February, 1853, but the matter went over without action. On the 1st of May, 1871, Gen. Chipman again reported that it is the duty of Congress to provide, by an anti-temple appropriation, for the completion of the unfinished Washington Monument at this city.

party deposited similar coins. The stone was then set in its place, and the party, after waiting to see the workmen complete the setting of the stone, descended. The stone was set in its place, and the party, after waiting to see the workmen complete the setting of the stone, descended.

THE EVENT WHICH MARKED THE COMPLETION OF THE GREATEST MONUMENT. It was a singular coincidence that the same day of the week which marked the beginning of the new work on the monument should also have marked its completion.

When the firing of the cannon announced the completion of the great work, Gen. W. McKee Dancy, Mr. H. H. King, Dr. J. M. Toner and Dr. Daniel B. Clark, members of the Monument Society, held an impromptu session upon the north-east corner of the shaft.

the completion of this enduring monument of country's gratitude to the Father of his Country.

The resolution had just been adopted when Col. Casey, smiling and happy, descended from the top and stood upon the elevator platform, and Col. Casey, followed, and in a few moments more the elevator began to descend.

Chief engineer and architect, Thomas L. Casey, colored copies of engineers' assistants, and four men on the shaft were in the elevator when the capstone was placed.

Aluminum was selected because of its lightness—one-third that of copper—and its freedom from oxidation.

The total amount expended by the United States in the work, was \$387,719.31, and by the Washington Monument Society, \$300,000, making the total cost of the structure \$1,187,719.31.

As finished, the monument is 554 feet 5.31 inches in height, shaft 513 feet 5.31 inches high, and the base 35 feet 6.31 inches above mean low water in the Potomac, and 306 feet 9.31 inches above the mean level of the Atlantic at Annapolis.

THE BOOK UPON WHICH GEORGE WASHINGTON WAS SWORN TO OFFICE. The Bible upon which George Washington took the oath of office on March 4, 1789, has been carefully preserved in New York up to the present time.

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