

Moving the Rock
250th Anniversary – 1774-2024
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This picture taken on December 20, 1920, recreated the former attempt to move Plymouth Rock from the waterfront in December of 1774. Both events were done close to Forefathers Day, the day the Pilgrims stepped on Plymouth Rock in 1620. But why did they want to move the Rock?

James Thacher, in his “History of the Town of Plymouth” writes: *The inhabitants of the town, animated by the glorious spirit of liberty which pervaded the Province, and mindful of the precious relic of our forefathers, resolved to consecrate the rock on which they landed to the shrine of liberty. Col. Theophilus Cotton, and a large number of the inhabitants assembled, with about 20 yoke of oxen, for the purpose of its removal.*” This meant moving the Rock to the Liberty Pole at the top of Leyden Street. However, the top half of the rock split from the bottom! Some thought this was a “prophetic omen” that we would split from Great Britain!

Watch for the float commemorating the 250th anniversary of this iconic moment in Plymouth’s history and a symbol of the precious commodity of liberty rooted in our nation’s history!