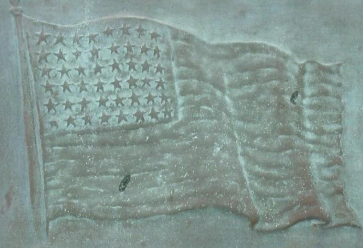


Residence of Samuel Francis Smith

A bronze tablet set into stone commemorates the site of Samuel Francis Smith's former residence at 1181 Centre Street near the corner of Tyler Terrace in Newton Centre, where he lived from 1842 until his death. Smith was a Baptist preacher -- the first pastor of that denomination in Newton -- and most famous for his composition of the lyrics to "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," which he titled "America." He also published a history of Newton in 1880 and was an editor of *The Christian Review*. He later became editorial secretary of the Baptist Missionary Union for 15 years. Smith's grave can be found in Newton Cemetery. He died suddenly in 1895 while riding the train to preach at Readville in Boston, now known as Hyde Park. The residence was actually meant to be preserved by a committee formed in 1958, but a fire in 1968 led to the home's destruction and replacement with the monument.





ON THIS SITE STOOD THE HOME OF
SAMUEL FRANCIS SMITH AUTHOR OF
THE HYMN AMERICA FIRST SUNG IN
PUBLIC AT BOSTON MASSACHUSETTS
INDEPENDENCE DAY - MDCCCXXXII
MEMORIAL ERECTED BY THE NEWTON
CENTRE WOMEN'S CLUB - MCMXIX

BASHKA PAEFF-REGIT