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A reminder of the building of Washington Bridge has been added to our collections in the form of a marble tablet, bearing the following inscription:

WASHINGTON BRIDGE.
Built by
JOHN BROWN, Esq. 1793.
This MONUMENT is erected by the Founder and Proprietor
of India Point, As a Testimony of High
Respect for the
GREAT & ILLUSTRIOUS WASHINGTON.

The monument here mentioned, of the base of which the tablet was a part, was a life-size statue of Washington, carved in wood, by John Bowers, of Providence, and erected at the west end of the bridge. It was swept away and lost in the great September gale [1807, poss. 1815] already spoken of. The building of this bridge was connected in the mind of Mr. Brown with the extension of his commercial pursuits. He was a man of great enterprise, and at this time a leading merchant, having twenty sail of ships engaged in commerce. He took a prominent part in the affairs of town and State, during the Revolution, was one of the celebrated company which, in 1772, burned the *Gaspee*, as the first outbreak of a resistance to the mother country in Rhode Island, and in 1784, was chosen to represent his native State in Congress, a position to which he was repeatedly re-elected. In carrying out his business plans, Mr. Brown filled in about four acres of the flats near the western terminus of the bridge, and established a wharf flush with deep water. He also built a ship of one thousand tons burthen, which he named the *Washington*, the largest vessel, at that time, that had ever been built in America, designed for the India trade — a trade then highly lucrative. The cost was \$300,000. Freightened with a suitable cargo, she sailed for China, where, without consulting the owner, and to his painful regret, she was sold by the supercargo. By this unexpected transaction, Mr. Brown's high hopes were swept away, and commerce at India Point dwindled. Mr. Brown was born in Providence, January 27th, 1736, and died September 20th, 1803, in the sixty-eighth year of his age. On his tomb stone, beneath his name, is inscribed:

"The enterprising and accomplished Merchant,
The tried Patriot and wise Legislator,
The universal Philanthropist and sincere Christian."