



FINAL

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**Restored Tomb Doors Installation to Complete Crypt Renovation at
Old North Church & Historic Site
Wednesday, Oct. 18 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

WHAT: The crypt below Old North Church contains 37 tombs, which were used for burials from 1732 to 1872. On Wednesday, Oct. 4, eight restored original wooden tomb doors will return. The installation marks the completion of a ten-month restoration and preservation project of the crypt by **Old North Church & Historic Site**, in partnership with the **National Parks Service**, which also included extensive repointing and brick preservation and archaeological research. Archaeologists were on hand throughout the process to observe the contents of each tomb and document their findings without disturbing the burials.

WHO: **Catherine Matthews**, Director of Education of Old North Illuminated, which operates the historic site and manages preservation projects
Juan Ocampo, of the National Parks Service

WHEN: Wednesday, Oct. 18, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

WHERE: Old North Church & Historic Site, 193 Salem St, Boston, MA 02113

WHY: Although the crypt is no longer in use for new burials, there is still much work to be done underground.

Old North Church's crypt is the final resting place for approximately 1,100 individuals. When constructed in 1723, the church didn't have space for a graveyard, so nine years after Old North Church opened, a single tomb was excavated under the sanctuary and additional tombs were added over time. Burials in the crypt took place between 1732 and 1872, long after a city ordinance that banned indoor burials was passed in 1850. Notable people interred in the crypt include the Rev. Timothy Cutler, Old North's first and longest-serving minister; Captain Samuel Nicholson, the first commander of the USS Constitution; and Major John Pitcairn, a British Major General who died at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Several tombs still contain the original wooden doors, which had been covered with plaster in the early 20th century. In February, the doors were removed for restoration, allowing archaeologists a rare opportunity to study the contents of the tombs. The return of the doors marks the completion of this 10-month project.

SOCIAL: Old North Church on social media: Facebook ([@oldnorth1723](#)); Twitter ([@OldNorth1723](#)); Instagram ([@oldnorth1723](#)); and YouTube ([Old North Church & Historic Site](#)).

HOW: For interview, photo and filming opportunities, call Allison Epstein at 203-915-8364 or email allison@teakmedia.com. | **Onsite media contact: Catherine Matthews, 617-943-9351.**

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