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**On Stone, Not Paper**  
Roger Babson, 1875–1967

A Poem by Suellen Wedmore

# On Stone, Not Paper

Roger Babson, 1875–1967

A POEM BY SUELLEN WEDMORE

I wanted my final words written on stone, not paper,

## **COURAGE...NEVER TRY NEVER WIN...KEEP OUT OF DEBT**

for inspiration, motivation, for character-building advice,  
& hired unemployed Finnish stone cutters to chisel wisdom  
on twenty-six of Gloucester's Dogtown's boulders,

& though I was the first to predict the stock market's crash,

## **BE ON TIME...USE YOUR HEAD...KINDNESS**

& was consultant to seven presidents, Assistant Secretary of Labor  
to "square deal" Roosevelt, & in '40 ran for president myself  
on the prohibition ticket, what I'm most proud of is my counsel

to all of you who hike Dogtown's meandering trails.

## **INDUSTRY...INTELLIGENCE...INTEGRITY**

Some called me "eccentric," with my anti-gravity campaign,  
researching a shield from the devilish force which seized  
my sister like a dragon, pulling her to pond's bottom,

but the city welcomed my 1150 acres gifted in memory

## **IF WORK STOPS VALUES DECAY...STUDY...GET A JOB**

of my father & grandfather, remembering our Sundays  
riding a handsome horse-drawn Goddard Buggy  
to salt the cattle grazing Dogtown's green hills.

Author of 47 published books, hundreds of articles,

## **INITIATIVE...IDEALS...PROSPERITY FOLLOWS SERVICE**

I wrote my final words on stone.

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### NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

*An economist and influential voice in local as well as national government, Roger Babson was a 10th generation descendant of Isabel Babson, widow and midwife, who emigrated from England to Salem and then Gloucester at age 60 with two sons—the forbear of at least 16 generations of Babsons.*