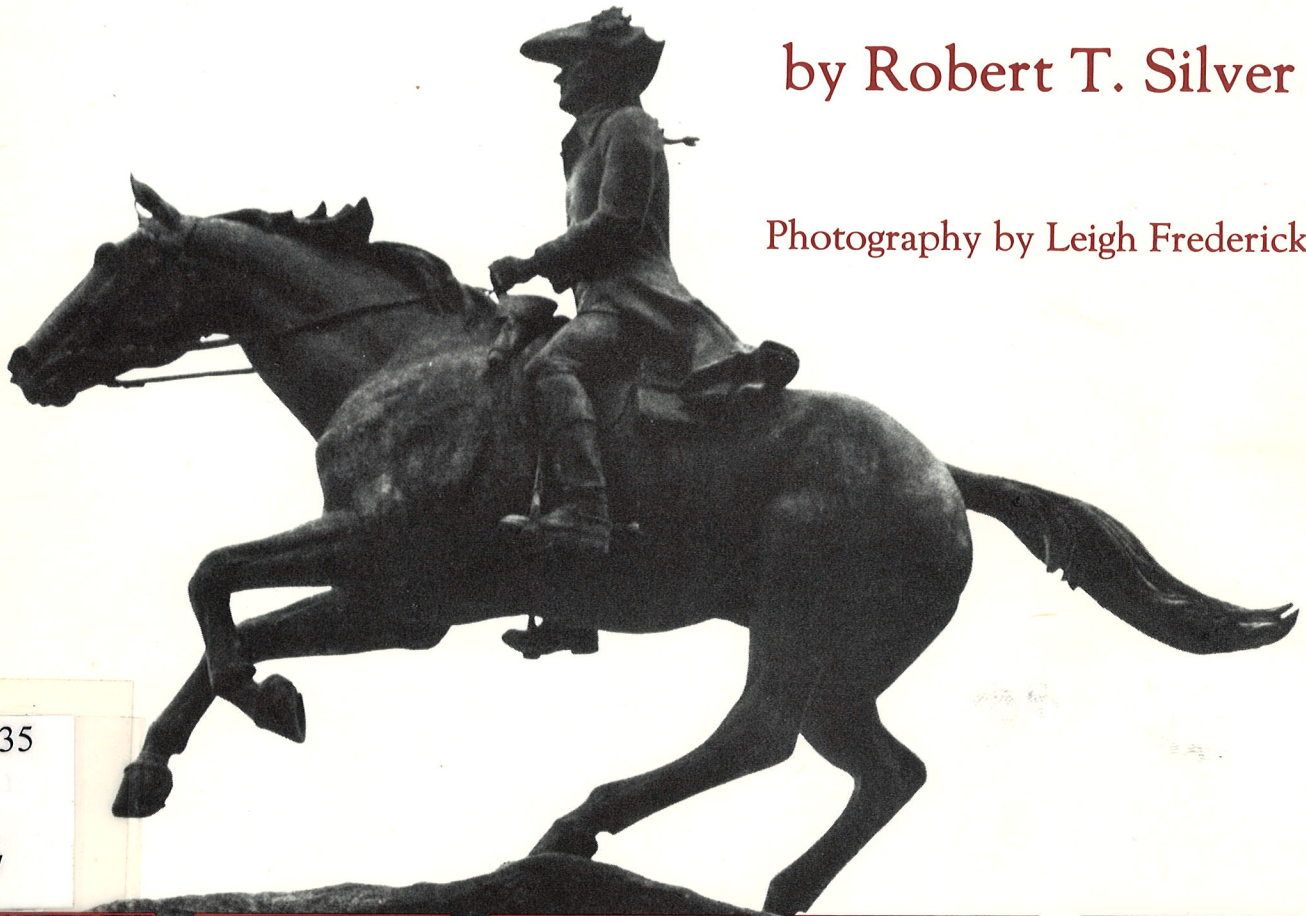


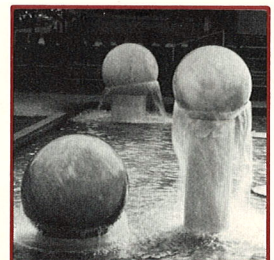
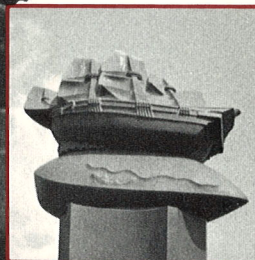
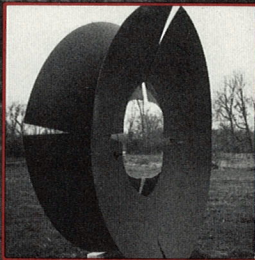
OUTDOOR SCULPTURE IN WILMINGTON

by Robert T. Silver

Photography by Leigh Frederick



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800 French Street, Wilmington, DE 19801.



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July 1987



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Harry Lowe (Eagle Group)

5. SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MONUMENT

1871, granite shaft, bronze eagle group

On the triangle formed by the conjunction of Delaware Avenue, 14th Street and Broom Street

SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MONUMENT

The **Soldiers and Sailors Monument** was erected through the efforts of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument Association, whose object it was to raise funds to provide a site and erect a monument to perpetuate the memory of those "who fell in defence of the Union during the late war for the suppression of the rebellion." The "late war" was the Civil War; the monument was dedicated on Memorial Day, 1871. It was the City of Wilmington's first (and still the largest) outdoor public monument.

The structure is composed of a granite column 45 feet high, resting upon a square concrete base 10 feet high, which sits upon a two-stepped concrete platform. The platform with its superstructure is then mounted atop a broad grassy mound, attained from street level by a flight of concrete steps.

Instead of a traditional Corinthian or Ionic capital the shaft is topped by four garlanded shields bearing stars and stripes motifs. This capital is surmounted by a bronze globe upon which a bronze eagle has just alighted. The eagle is throttling in its talons a reptile representing secession.

The north face of the base is inscribed:

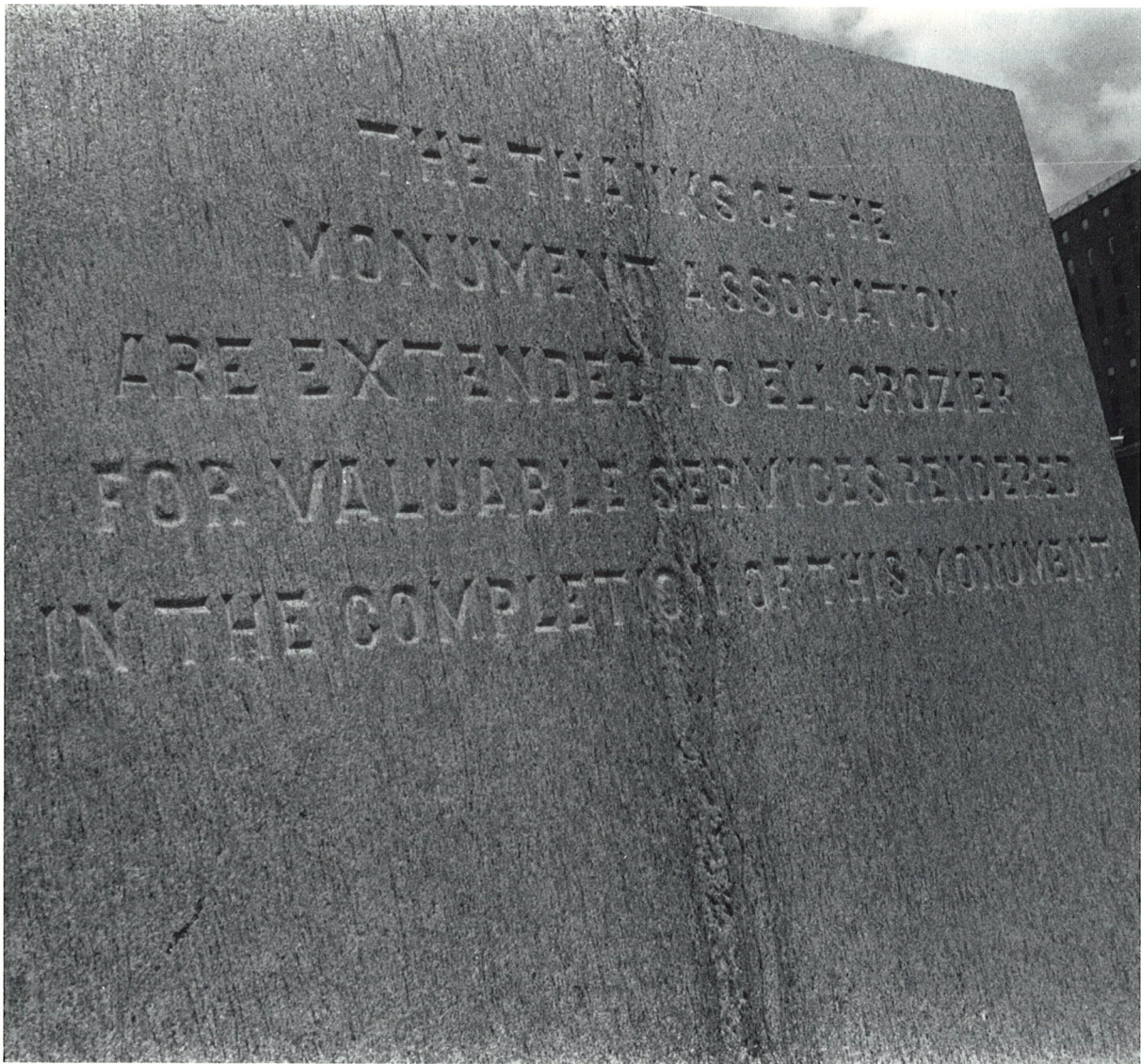
SOLDIERS AND SAILORS
MONUMENT
IN COMMEMORATION OF DELAWARE'S
PATRIOTIC DEAD WHO SACRIFICED
THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR COUNTRY
DURING THE REBELLION OF 1861-65

The south face of the base is inscribed:

THE THANKS OF THE
MONUMENT ASSOCIATION
ARE EXTENDED TO ELI CROZIER
FOR VALUABLE SERVICES RENDERED
IN THE COMPLETION OF THIS MONUMENT

The monument came to be erected through a set of fortuitous circumstances. In 1868 the Federal Government announced plans for the demolition of its building at Second and Lodge Streets in Philadelphia. This was the neo-classical Bank of Pennsylvania built in 1800 by the famed architect Benjamin Latrobe. A Wilmingtonian and former Civil War officer, Albert S. Nones, came forward with the suggestion that columns from the facade of the bank building be offered to such of the thirteen original colonies/states which might desire to convert them into memorials to those who died in the War. This was done by Act of Congress, and Delaware obtained one. In addition, Congress donated a bronze Civil War cannon from which a local artist, Harry Lowe, forged the eagle group, using the facilities of Pusey & Jones, the local shipbuilding firm. The memorial was constructed from plans drawn up by A. B. Mullet, an architect from Washington, D.C.

A few years later, however, the Association which was responsible for the monument's erection found itself unable to repay some \$1,700 of the \$3,800 it had borrowed. The creditors sued and turned the property over to the sheriff, who announced that it would be auctioned off to clear the debt. At this juncture another Wilmingtonian,



Eli Crozier, a self-styled superpatriot who occasionally appeared in a stars and stripes costume, prevailed upon the sheriff to delay the sale. Through persistent efforts over a period of six years of public appeals he raised \$3,000, which he turned over to the creditors at a Memorial Day ceremony in 1880. The inscription

on the south face of the base was engraved, and for many years afterward the monument was popularly known as the **Crozier Monument**. Subsequently, the Association turned the title over to the City, and ever since then the annual Memorial Day parades have been terminating at the site for speeches and ceremonies.



A Chronology of Wilmington Events & Sculpture

Event	Year	Sculpture
Columbus	1492	
Landing of the Swedes	1638	
Caesar Rodney	1776	
Casimir Pulaski	1779	
Peter Spencer	1843	
Admiral duPont; Civil War	1865	
	1871	Soldiers & Sailors Monument
President James A. Garfield	1881	
	1884	Admiral duPont Statue
	1895	President Garfield Statue
Thomas Francis Bayard	1898	
President William McKinley	1901	
	1906	President McKinley Plaque
	1907	Thomas Francis Bayard Statue
World War I	1918	
	1923	Caesar Rodney Equestrian Statue
	1925	Todd Memorial
	1933	Josephine Memorial Fountain
	1938	Landing of the Swedes Monument
World War II	1945	
	1954	Casimir Pulaski Plaque
	1957	Christopher Columbus Statue
	1970	Boy & Dogs Sculpture
	1971	Boy & Duck Sculpture
Vietnam War	1972	
	1973	Father & Son Sculpture
	1979	The Holocaust Memorial
	1980	Untitled 1979-8
	1980	Monumental Holistic No. VII
	1981	Wild Iris
	1983	Electroglide
	1983	Kinetic Sculptures
	1983	Vietnam Memorial
	1983	Orifice II
	1985	Proa
	1985	The Sentinel