

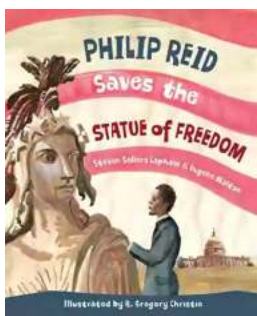
How Philip Reid's Heroic Act Saved The Statue Of Freedom and Preserved American History

When it comes to heroic acts that have shaped American history, one name stands out prominently - Philip Reid. His bravery and determination not only saved the Statue of Freedom, but also symbolized the ideals that America holds dear. Join us on a captivating journey as we recount the incredible tale of how Philip Reid saved the iconic statue through his unparalleled skills and unwavering dedication.

The Birth of the Statue of Freedom

The Statue of Freedom is a prominent symbol of democracy and liberty, towering high atop the United States Capitol building in Washington, D.C. Designed by Thomas Crawford, the statue was cast in bronze and layered with a glistening layer of pure gold. Standing at a staggering 19.5 feet tall and weighing about 15,000 pounds, it embodies the spirit of America and all it represents.

In the mid-1850s, the statue was still a work in progress. Crawford had designed a magnificent sculpture, but the final step of casting and assembling the statue proved to be a monumental challenge. This is where Philip Reid would eventually play a pivotal role.



Philip Reid Saves The Statue of Freedom

by Steven Sellers Lapham(Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Philip Reid's Journey

Philip Reid, born into slavery in South Carolina, possessed a unique talent as a skilled foundry worker and metalsmith. His expertise in casting and shaping metals was exceptional. Reid's skills soon caught the attention of architects and artists who recognized his talent.

His journey led him to Clark Mills, an accomplished sculptor who had been commissioned to create the massive bronze statue for the United States Capitol. Recognizing Reid's extraordinary abilities, Mills entrusted him with the task of casting the critical eagle figure that would sit atop the statue. It was a tremendous responsibility.

A Heroic Challenge

Reid knew that this was not an ordinary task; it was a challenge of epic proportions. The process of casting the statue involved numerous steps, intense heat, and meticulous attention to detail.

However, disaster struck during the casting process. The molds containing the eagle figure, along with other parts of the statue, cracked. Panic engulfed the foundry as doubts emerged about completing the project successfully.

Philip Reid's Unyielding Spirit

It was at this critical moment that Philip Reid displayed his unwavering determination and spirit. Despite the setback, Reid refused to accept defeat. With no guarantee of success, he organized a team and devised a plan to save the statue.

Working tirelessly, Reid developed innovative casting techniques and ingenious methods to repair the damaged molds. He meticulously sculpted and re-casted the eagle figure, ensuring its perfect alignment and finish. His expertise and attention to detail were critical in salvaging the project.

The Transformational Moment

Finally, after numerous sleepless nights and countless hardships, the golden eagle was successfully cast and ready to adorn the Statue of Freedom. Philip Reid's heroic act saved the statue from the brink of failure, forever cementing his name in American history.

An Iconic Symbol Preserved

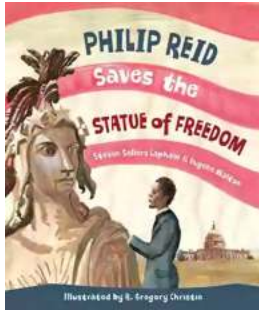
The Statue of Freedom was unveiled on top of the United States Capitol in December 1863, amidst a tumultuous period in American history. Its presence represented the resilience and hope that America needed during those trying times.

Thanks to Philip Reid's unwavering dedication and unparalleled skill, the Statue of Freedom stands tall as a symbol of democracy, freedom, and the indomitable spirit of the American people. It serves as a stark reminder that ordinary individuals can achieve extraordinary things when faced with adversity.

Philip Reid's heroic act in saving the Statue of Freedom is a story that deserves to be celebrated and remembered. His unwavering determination and unmatched skill forever altered American history, ensuring that the symbol of freedom would continue to inspire generations to come.

As we gaze upon the Statue of Freedom, let us be reminded of the incredible journey undertaken by Philip Reid to preserve this iconic symbol. His bravery and

craftsmanship have transcended time and continue to resonate with the American spirit. Philip Reid truly immortalized the essence of freedom through his heroic act.



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On December 2, 1863, a bronze statue was placed atop the dome of the United States Capitol Building. Standing more than 19 feet tall, the figure called “Freedom” was designed and created during a period of great turmoil in American history. But at one point during its creation, it wasn’t clear the statue would even get to its final destination. One man, in particular, played an important role in seeing the statue through to completion. His name was Philip Reid and he was a slave. Born into slavery, Philip Reid grew up on a South Carolina farm, helping various craftsmen such as the blacksmith and the potter. Eventually, he was sold to a man named Clark Mills, who opened a foundry in Washington, D.C. Mr. Mills’s foundry is contracted to cast the Freedom statue but the project is jeopardized when a seemingly unsolvable puzzle arises. And it is Philip Reid, an American-born slave, who steps in.



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