Worth Bagley Monument [1]

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Worth Bagley Monument, Raleigh NC Worth Bagley Monument Raleigh

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Description: This bronze figure depicts Worth Bagley, in uniform, looking forward. He steps forward with this right foot and carries a coat in his right arm. The bronze sculpture sits atop a rectangular granite base that has an anchor with a design curling around it in bronze on the front.

Images: Contemporary front view [4] | Rear view [5] | East view [6] | Spanish naval deck gun [7] | Front inscription [8] | Rear inscription [9]

Inscription:

Front: WORTH BAGLEY / ENSIGN U.S.N. / FIRST FALLEN / 1898
Rear: KILLED IN ACTION / AT CARDENAS CUBA / MAY 11, 1898.

[2]

Dedication date: 5/20/1907

Creator: Francis Herman Packer, Sculptor

Materials & Techniques: Bronze statue, granite base

Sponsor: N.W. West proposed to have a monument built in Bagley's honor. Several North Carolina newspapers including the Raleigh News and Observer and the Fayettesville Observer solicited small donations of one dollar or less. Almost every donation was of a dollar or less, including those given by former Governors, wealthy industrialists, and other well-to-do residents. The Bagley Monument Association was comprised of N.W. West, W.S. Primrose, D.E. Everitt, T.S. Kenan, R.M. Furman, and the mayor of Raleigh.

Cost: \$11000

Unveiling & Dedication: Speakers included Capt. R. B. Hobson and Governor Glenn. The entire city had been decorated. Frederick Own was master of ceremonies.

Post dedication use: In 1908 a Spanish naval deck gun was added beside Bagley's statue.

Subject notes: Worth Bagley was born in Raleigh, NC in 1874 to a prominent Raleigh family. He was a naval officer aboard the USS Winslow during the Spanish-American War. As the first soldier to die during this conflict on May 11, 1898, he became the war's first national hero. His death in Cuba also was perceived to be a testament to the sectional reconciliation after the Civil War; he was a white son of the South who wore the uniform of the reunited nation three decades after the Civil War.

Location: The statue stands in the southwestern section of Union Square, south of Hillsborough Street. Bagley's figure faces south.

Landscape: The monument sits on the grounds of the North Carolina State Capitol in Raleigh on the west side of the building. Although Bagley's monument commemorates a white southerner who fought under the United States flag, it simultaneously celebrates him as a North Carolinian. A few feet to the northwest of the monument stands the Confederate Monument.

City: Raleigh
County: Wake

Subjects: Historic Military Figures, Spanish American War

Latitude: 35.78013 **Longitude:** -78.63953

Additional information from NCpedia editors at the State Library of North Carolina: :

The full name of one of the speakers referenced in the monument text above -- "R.B. Hobson" -- was "Richard Pearson Hobson." Hence, the initials for

the speaker should have been "R.P."

Subjects:

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Origin - location:

Wake County [13] Raleigh [14]

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