

1. ROGER WILLIAMS LEAVES SALEM

Roger Williams left Salem in the Massachusetts Bay Colony for the Narragansett Indian Country rather than be deported to England. His ideas of freedom and worship were contrary to those in the established church of the Colony. He left his wife and two young daughters, Mary and Freeborn, and trudged through the bitter cold and snow of the New England winter of 1636. Buying land adjacent to the Narragansett Bay from the Indians he established Providence Plantations which became Rhode Island Colony. The new colony had "jurisdiction only in civil things." By 1639, Williams had organized a Baptist church at Providence which is recognized as the first organization of Baptists in the New World.

The Artist says:

In portraying the banishment of Roger Williams from Salem, one immediately asks himself, "at what point shall I show this flight of Roger Williams. Shall it be the final goodbye to the family--the march through the snow-covered woods or the pure struggle of man against nature?

"Better still would it not be better to show him briskly walking forward, with assured stride toward his own chosen destiny at that particular moment when he takes that *final look back*. A look not in anger at the authorities, nor in self-pity, but rather the one most human reaction--the long last look back toward his loved ones at that final moment he turns to enter the forest."

The early dawn is there, both to show his time of departure, but even more so to symbolize this act of his which begins here a new dawn for America, the new dawn of religious freedom in Providence Plantations.

The birds symbolize the peace-loving qualities of the man, but even more that verse of Scripture which so wonderfully exemplifies the Christ in Roger Williams - Matthew 8:20.

And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.