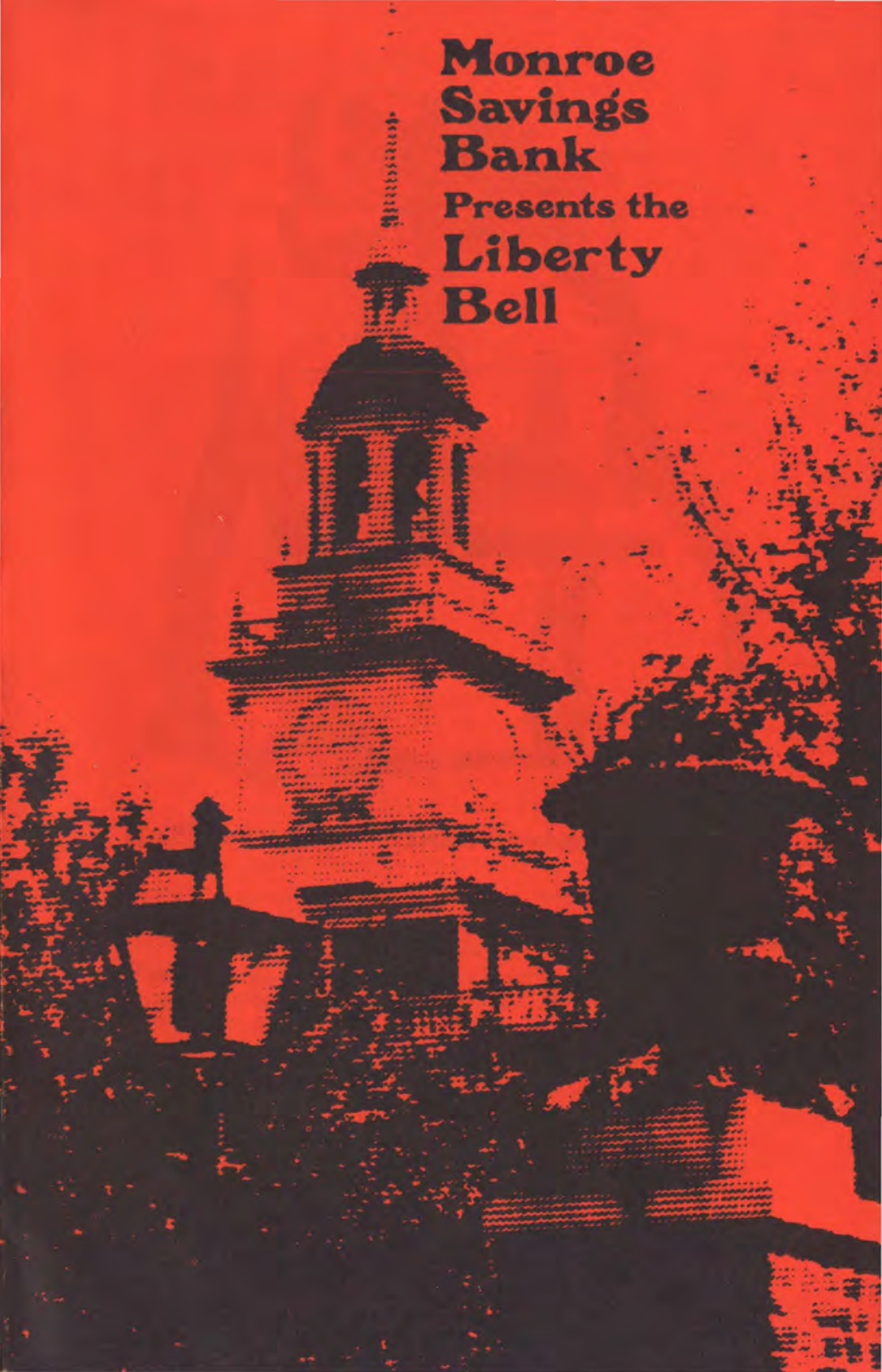


**Monroe  
Savings  
Bank**

Presents the  
**Liberty  
Bell**





## **A word about our Liberty Bell**

Even if you never see the real Liberty Bell, you will always know exactly what it looks like. That's because our Liberty Bell is an exact reproduction of the original . . . except it is smaller.

Not only does it look like the real Liberty Bell but it is made of the same materials. Even the yoke on which the bell is mounted is made of the same wood as the original yoke . . . slippery elm.

There is one important difference. If you look on the back of our bell, you'll see the word *OPUS* followed by a number. There were only a limited number of bells, such as ours, cast in honor of our nation's Bicentenary celebration. Each has a different number molded in the shell. This number tells you how many bells were cast before ours.

We hope you have enjoyed seeing our Liberty Bell and will further enjoy reading this booklet. It tells you the fascinating history of the real Liberty Bell and explains how our bell was made.

## The silent bell that still proclaims liberty

There are few bells in history that have had a more exciting or disastrous past than our own Liberty Bell. It has survived battles, cracks, recasting and even a year of hiding beneath a church to become one of the most famous bells in the world . . . and yet no one has heard its full throated peal for over 125 years. Here is the interesting and exciting story of America's Liberty Bell.

**1751**

This was a busy year for Assemblymen of the Province of Pennsylvania who regularly met in Philadelphia. In addition to their normal business, they were engaged in constructing their first State House which would serve as the seat of Pennsylvania's government. Little did they realize that this stately brick building would still be standing 200 years later, known throughout the nation as "Independence Hall."

Although the Assembly men disagreed on many parts of the building design, they unanimously voted on the need to purchase a bell for the State House tower. But, deciding on what size the bell should be was another problem. Finally, they simply sent their messenger to London, England with instructions to use his own judgement and get the best bargain possible.

Of course, more important than size was the inscription to be cast into the bell. Here, again, there was considerable debate until someone suggested using the Bible verse from Leviticus, "Proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."

This seemed to express the feelings of these freedom loving people so well that the inscription was immediately adopted. Thus, the business of buying a bell was finished.

**1752**

In September of this year, word finally arrived that the State House Bell was in port. Immediately, it was placed on a cart and carried to the State House lawn.

It seemed as though everyone was there to hear the bell ring. But it was explained to the crowd that several days were needed to install the bell in the tower. The disappointed people started to leave until someone suggested they set up a temporary yoke in the yard and give the bell a test ringing.

This was quickly done and a number of men helped hoist the bell into place. The bell was swung back and forth several times until the heavy clapper finally made contact with the side. But, instead of a clear tone, there was just a dull thud and the bell cracked.

The disappointed Assemblymen tried to get the bell shipped back to England. But they found that the boat which had brought

the bell was already too crowded. It would be months before a ship with available space would be able to return it to London.

But with the State House finished, the people were anxious to have their bell installed. So, it was finally decided to recast the bell in America, even though a bell of that size had never been made in the colonies.

The casting process required building a new mold, melting down the original bell and pouring the molten metal into the new mold. It was almost like creating a new bell.

The first time the bell was recast, it cracked before leaving the bell foundry. But a second try was more successful and soon the future Liberty Bell was back in Philadelphia having survived the first of several catastrophies.

**1753-  
1776**

The new State House Bell was in frequent use after its installation. It called the people together for important announcements, summoned legislators to Assembly sessions and was even used to voice the people's reaction to certain events leading up to the Revolutionary War.



For example, as Benjamin Franklin was saying goodbye to his family and friends before leaving to carry the colony's grievances to King George in 1757, the bell rang with hope. But Ben was unsuccessful in creating a better relationship between the colony and its mother country.

Then came the hated Stamp Act in 1776, which taxed the people without their consent. This act by England was announced to the people of Philadelphia by muffling the bell with cloth and tolling it sadly.

Another major event was the "Boston Tea Party" in 1773 which resulted in Boston Harbor being closed by the English. Again, the bell tolled as if predicting the terrible battle which lay just ahead.

**1776**

This was the year that made the Liberty Bell famous. From all over Colonial America, men gathered to consider a Declaration of Independence. The gathering was called the Continental Congress.

Thomas Jefferson submitted a draft which was accepted by the Congress with some revisions. It was then announced to the people of Philadelphia and subsequently the world. The announcement was punctuated by the joyous ringing of the State House Bell.

**1777**

At the time of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Revolutionary War had been in progress for over a year. Consequently, it was no surprise when the State House Bell summoned the people to warn them the British were marching on Philadelphia. It was the last time the bell was heard for over a year.

In the crowd were a group of men who knew of the British habit of melting down such objects as bells and converting them into cannon balls. They quickly assembled rope and tackel, removed the bell from the State House Tower and made a run for Allentown, Pa.

Luck was with them when they arrived in Allentown for they met up with several members of the Zion Reformed Church. These members suggested hiding the bell beneath the floor of their church. It turned out to be a perfect hiding place and the bell was never found by the British.

**1778-  
1781**

The following year, the British evacuated Philadelphia and the State House Bell was returned. From that day on, it rang frequently to announce Colonial victories . . . and then, in 1781, the glad tidings arrived that General Cornwallis had surrendered to Washington at Yorktown.

The Revolutionary War was over and with it came a new name for the State House Bell. People were now calling it the "Independence Bell."

**1781-  
1835**

The Independence Bell rang faithfully for many years following the Revolutionary War. It helped celebrate anniversaries, announce victories during the War of 1812 and sadly toll the passing away of famous persons.

It was on just such an occasion in 1835 that the bell sounded its own death knell. Chief Justice John Marshall of Virginia had died and the Independence Bell was tolling in his memory. Suddenly the tone of the bell began to noticeably change and the ringing stopped.

Immediately, the bellringer climbed into the tower and carefully inspected the bell. His fear was confirmed. The bell had cracked.

**1836-  
1846**

Nothing was done about the crack in the Independence Bell for ten years. But, during this same period of time, the people of Philadelphia did change the name of the bell. This came about because of a strong antislavery movement which swept through the country in 1839.

Just as the bell had stood as a symbol of our country's independence, it now became a symbol of liberty for slaves. And thus, it became known as the Liberty Bell. Few people realize that the name we call the bell today was not influenced by our war for independence but rather by a desire to abolish slavery.

Finally, in 1846, someone suggested the tone of the bell might be restored by separating the sides of the crack. The attempt was made . . . but it failed.

And so, on Washington's birthday of that same year, the bell rang for the last time in history. While pealing, the crack widened to its present size and the ringing had to be stopped.

## **Prologue**

But the life of the bell is far from over. Even though it will never ring again, its sound has been heard on several special occasions. For example, when the Allies crossed the English Channel to invade France in 1944, the Liberty Bell was struck with a hammer and the sound broadcast throughout the nation.

Our reproduction of the Liberty Bell has a crack cast into its side but does not penetrate all the way through the shell. Thus, our bell can be rung. We like to feel that the sound of our ringing bell is a proxy voice for the real Liberty Bell, ringing out to celebrate two hundred years of freedom in a great and growing land.

# How our Liberty Bell was made

Few people realize the painstaking skill required to cast a fine bell, such as the reproduction of our Liberty Bell or a church bell. The centuries old craft is still basically the same as when the real Liberty Bell was made.

1



The first step is a rough mold made of brick and cement.

2



The rough mold is coated with cement and shaped like the inside of the bell. This is the mold for the bell core.

3



A thin layer of graphite is applied and then another of cement which is shaped like the outside of the bell.

4



Wax is poured over the outer layer of cement and used to form all the letters and numbers. When the wax is hard, clay is carefully worked in over the surface to receive the impression of the wax letters and outer bell shape. The mold is now covered with a steel jacket for protection.

5



The entire form is placed on a furnace to harden. During this process, the wax layer melts and runs off.

6



With the wax gone, there is a small space left between the clay mold and top cement layer. After removing the steel jacket, the clay mold can be lifted right off.

7



Next, the top layer of cement is chipped away.

8



With the clay mold back on top of the form, a space is left in which to pour the metal and form the bell. This molden metal has been carefully formulated from several types of metals and is heated to 1100° C.

9

After cooling for several days, the clay mold is broken off leaving the finished bell.

Every stage of creation for our bell required a skill that has been handed down from father to son for generations. This gives you an idea of why we are so proud to bring you the most authentic reproduction of the Liberty Bell you'll probably ever see.

# Monroe Savings Bank

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