



THE LIBERTY BELL...

Citizens of Philadelphia first heard its sonorous tones in 1753, but then as the State House Bell. Largest in the Colonies, it contained more than a ton of metal. For more than three quarters of a century it marked important steps in American History. It roused the people against oppressive acts of the King; defiantly it rang when the Declaration of Independence was signed in the hall below; hopefully it rang through the long years of the war for Independence, and triumphantly it rang when victory was proclaimed.

That day it became the Liberty Bell.

In 1787 when the Constitution of the United States was signed in the hall below, it sounded a note of promise that has been ringing in the ears of the world ever since.

In 1835 the venerable bell completed more than four score years of public service—cracked beyond repair. Today it greets millions of visitors each year at the entrance to Independence Hall.

The bell you see in the Washington State Historical Society Building in Tacoma is a replica of the original bell, exact in every detail. Here thousands of Washingtonians, to whom Philadelphia is a distant city, can view it each year, proud of this symbol of a mighty nation's destiny and grateful to the United States Treasury Department which selected this building for its placement.



INDEPENDENCE HALL

Words seem poor indeed when marshalled together in an effort to pay adequate tribute to Independence Hall. For it there is no adequate substitute. It is a part of the foundation of America. Many of the most important events in our nation's history took place within its walls. Built between 1732 and 1741, it was an important agency in the early history of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania.

Here the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776. Within its walls in 1787 was held a conference without peer in the struggle for democracy. Here it was in that year that a little band of patriots finished the work they and others had begun on the battlefields of the Revolution. They gave to the world what has been termed the greatest document ever to come from the mind of man—The Constitution of the United States.

No trip to Philadelphia could be complete without a visit to this hall so sacred to America. Stand in this hall, visualize Washington on the dias at the far end, picture others of the Constitutional Convention in their chairs around the hall—Franklin, Madison, Hamilton, Morris and the rest—all through those hot, stuffy summer days when the fate of a nation hung in the balance and you will come away a better citizen, determined to render your country more constructive service of citizenship.



Replica of Statue of Liberty gift of Mt. Rainier Council Boy Scouts. Statue in New York Harbor gift of people of France in 1886, with money for pedestal given by school children and citizens of the United States.

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