

# Liberty Bell could tell some patriotic stories

(Ed. Note - This is the second in a series of winning essays on "Famous Landmarks of the American Revolution," a contest sponsored by Colonel Frederick Hambricht Chapter DAR. Eighth grader Bethany Ann Jimison writes on "Liberty Bell.")

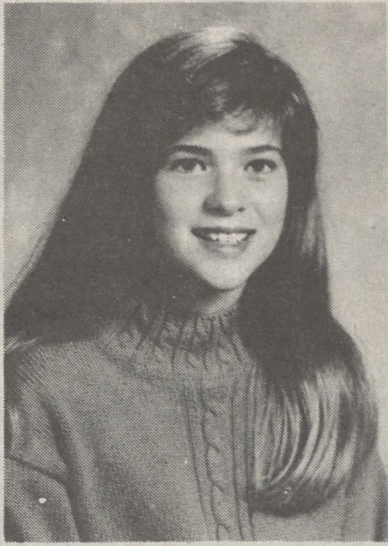
By BETHANY JIMISON

The Liberty Bell hangs in Independence Hall in Philadelphia, PA. Hundreds of thousands of people pass by the bell every year. If only the bell could speak, what a story it would tell of our country's patriotism.

The people of Pennsylvania built a State House in Philadelphia when our country was still a part of England. One day a man spoke up and said that the steeple in the State House looked bare. So, he suggested that a good-sized bell be put in the steeple.

The chairman of the assembly wrote a letter to London asking the best bell-makers to make a bell weighing about 2000 pounds. He then asked them to put a Bible passage on it: "Proclaim Liberty throughout all the land to all the inhabitants thereof." Lev. 25:10.

All the people in the town knew that it took a long time to make a bell that would last. One day in August they were happy to know that the bell finally had arrived. People watched as they lifted the



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heavy bell onto a wagon. They were proud of their handsome bell.

Workmen built a frame on the State House lawn so that the people could see and hear it before they raised it up to the steeple. The bell ringer raised the clapper. He rang it twice and then on the third ring there was a loud thud. The bell had cracked. Two men tried to recast it and they did a good job. The bell sounded fine just as it had before.

One of the duties of the bell was to call the men of the Continental Congress to their meetings. The men called the bell the State House Bell so others began calling it by that name too. Whenever the King

added a new tax the bell would call all the people to the State House to hear about it.

In 1776 the Continental Congress passed the Declaration of Independence which meant that the Colonies didn't want to be a part of England any more. The people were willing to fight for their freedom also. The bell rang so loudly when the Declaration was read that the people thought that the beams of the steeple might fall.

After a year had passed word came that the hated Redcoats were coming into Philadelphia to spend their winter headquarters there. The Patriots were scared that the Redcoats would melt the bell into bullets or cannons. So they carefully took the bell and placed it upon a wagon. The bell was kept under an old Zion Reformed Church for over a year. As soon as the British left, the Americans got to work cleaning the State House, and they brought back the bell.

In 1781 the bell announced the end of the war with England. The United States was free.

The bell tolled for the death of great Americans. July 8, 1835, the bell was tolling for the death of Chief Justice John Marshall when suddenly its familiar voice cracked and became dull. The bell once again had cracked. For more than 10 long years the bell hung in the steeple silent. In 1846 the city was planning a birthday celebration in

honor of George Washington. A newspaper reporter remembered the bell and wondered if it could be mended to ring for the occasion. The men in charge of the celebration liked the idea and sent workmen up to see what could be done.

For a short time on this special holiday the bell rang. The effort was too great for it and at noon it cracked in such a way that it could never ring again. When the bell was 100 years old it was brought down from the steeple and placed on a pedestal.

In 1876 Philadelphia had a big fair in honor of our country's 100 years of independence. People came from all over the world to see the bell. They knew the role it had played in America's fight for freedom.

From then on the bell was affectionately known as the Liberty Bell. It has been known by that name ever since. The Liberty Bell is now placed in a spot of honor in Independence Hall.

For about 240 years the Liberty Bell has been a part of America's patriotic history. Next to our flag, the Liberty Bell is our most treasured symbol of patriotism. The Liberty Bell is so important that America has refused to let another cast it. The bell tells the world of freedom and liberty more surely than if it spoke in round full tones. Thousands of people from all over the world visit it every year.



FIVE GENERATIONS - Stephanie Nichole Maples, daughter of Todd and Tammy Maples, represents the fifth generation of her family. Stephanie is being held by her great-great-grandmother Ollie Sanders. Standing at left is her great-grandmother, Dot Fletcher, and seated at right is her grandmother, Vickie McGee. Standing center is her father, Todd Maples.

## Taylor Drew Woodall born January 30, 1993

Taylor Drew Woodall was born January 30, 1993 at Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte. The baby weighed six pounds, 15 ounces, and was 18 inches long.

Parents are Adam and Cheryl Woodall of Cherryville.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Rick Toney of Kings Mountain, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Woodall of Bessemer City and Mr. and Mrs. Grant Pruett of McAdenville.

Great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Doug McCormick of Brevard, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney White of Indian Trail, Mr. and Mrs. James Meece of Pisgah Forest, Mrs. Etta Hicks of Virginia and Mrs. Ruby Hicks of West Virginia.

Great-great-grandparents are Mrs. Susan K. Lackey of Bessemer City, Mrs. Margaret B. White of Weddington, Haskell Morgan of Brevard and Mrs. Sadie Pruett of West Virginia.



KING AND QUEEN OF VALENTINE - Violet Barker, princess; Queen Bynum Jenkins; King James Neal and Prince Pete Bolton were crowned at a Valentine party Friday at White Oak Manor. Residents were treated to party refreshments in the red and white decorated party room. The royalty received crowns, flowers and gifts.

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