



Bicentennial Bell

“...on the side of the Bicentennial Bell are the words ‘Let Freedom Ring’. It is a message in which both our people can join and which I hope will be heard around the world for centuries to come.”

-- Queen Elizabeth II at the presentation of the Bicentennial Bell, July 6, 1976

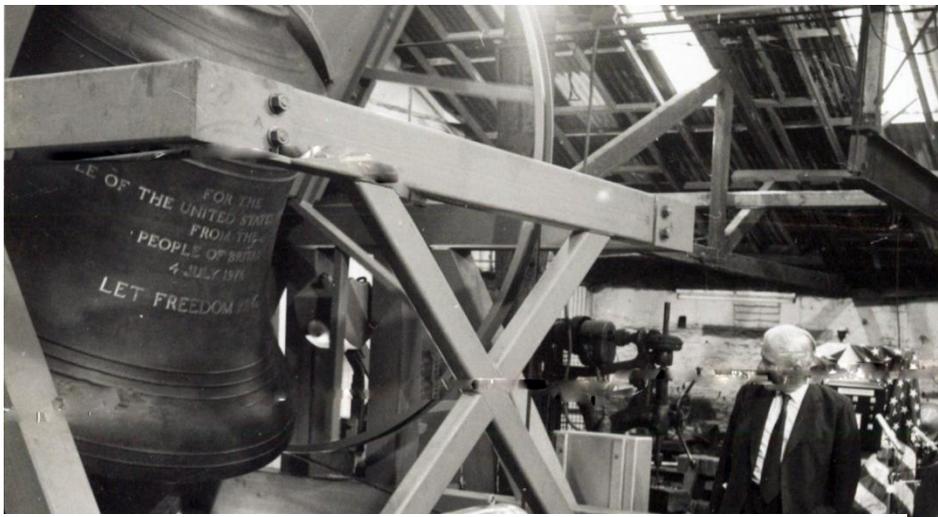


To commemorate the 200th anniversary of American independence, the British people presented the people of the United States with the Bicentennial Bell. Cast at the Whitechapel Foundry in London, this gift celebrates the common cause of freedom uniting the two nations.

Queen Elizabeth II spoke at the dedication ceremony in Independence National Historical Park’s Visitor Center on July 6, 1976. She expressed gratitude to America’s Founding Fathers for teaching the British “to respect the right of others to govern themselves in their own way.” Acknowledging a valuable lesson, she emphasized the shared heritage of the principles of the Magna Carta guiding our nations.



Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip viewing the Liberty Bell on July 6, 1976. The Liberty Bell contains metal from a bell ordered from the Whitechapel Foundry in 1751.



The first official peal of the Bicentennial Bell at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. Images courtesy of Independence National Historical Park.

The Bicentennial Bell rang out at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. for many years from its tower on 3rd Street between Chestnut and Walnut Streets.

Bicentennial Bell Facts

Weight: 12,446 lbs.

Composition: Copper and tin alloy

Height: 5 feet, 6 inches

Note: G below middle C

Inscription: For the People of the United States of America from the People of Britain 4 July 1976

LET FREEDOM RING