

of liberty. A subscription was then raised to aid the Boston sufferers.

Following the receipt of news of the battle of Lexington on April 24, 1775, the bell was again rung and it was agreed that liberty should be defended at all costs. It was also rung several times at meetings to consider the resolution for the independence of the colonies.

Following the adoption of the resolution plans were made for the calling of the people for the announcing of the Declaration of Independence.

July 8, 1776, was the date set for the reading of the proclamation. The ceremonies proper did not begin until noon but the crowds began to assemble early in the day.

The bell began to toll shortly after 11 o'clock and continued to ring until the ceremonies proper began. John Nixon read the declaration. Following which the bell was again rung and then the king's arms were torn from the walls of the king's court and on the square in front of Independence Hall they were burned.

On September 26, 1776, the bell called the assembly together for the last time and on October 24, 1781, it was again rung to announce the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown. Then it rang on April 16, 1783, to announce the proclamation of peace. It was rung several times later and the last time to mark the death of Chief Justice John Marshall. During his funeral on July 8, 1835, the bell was being rung when suddenly it cracked. From then on until this day the huge bell has never been rung.

The bell is 12 feet in circumference around the lip and seven feet six inches around the crown. It is three inches thick in the heaviest part of the lip and one and a quarter inches thick in its thinnest part. The clapper is three feet two inches long and the weight of the entire bell is 2080 pounds.

After the bell cracked it was abandoned for 11 years, when an attempt was made to drill out the crack, but it was unsuccessful. Then the famous bell was put away inside one of the attic rooms of the tower of the building and it was not until several years after the Civil war that the usefulness of the relic was realized.

Plans were finally made for preserving the old bell and it was placed in the Declaration chamber in a heavy case. It has been suspended from the original yoke on which it hung during the Revolution. With the exception of the trips it has made, the bell has never been outside of the walls of the state house since it was taken to Trenton in September, 1777, when it was thought that the British army nearing Philadelphia would capture it.