



Correction on Capital Campaign newsletter #6

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Someone wrote:

"Another capital campaign in 1793 involved buying a bell. This was the bell that was rung on April 19, 1775 to rally the town that the British were coming."

"How did a bell which was obtained in 1793 get rung in 1775, pray tell?"

At least I know you're reading. if we got the bell in 1793 it would have been hard to ring it on April 19, 1775. True

What, You don't believe in miracles? Although putting one faith in typos is probably a better bet

The church first got the bell in 1753 and practiced ringing it for 22 years in anticipation of Patriots day.

Interestingly, the bell they bought in 1753 necessitated the need to build a Bell House to house it, since the church had no steeple. The bell eventually cracked and was voted to take it down and sell the bell house in 1796.

When the new church was built in 1817 a new bell was imported by Jermiah Fitch for the town and first rung on July 8, 1817 and lasted until 1863 when it was sold after "it was rudely handled in a seeming display of patriotism".

Here what Sharon McDonald wrote in an article in *The Bedford Citizen*

"The first bell was hung there in 1817 when the church was built. According to an old story, during the Civil War someone celebrating a Northern victory whacked it with a hammer and it cracked. There was no repair; it had to be taken down and sold for scrap metal. The steeple was silent for 65 years."

"In 1926, George Blinn, a lawyer and a prominent member of the community died. His widow, Clara, presented a huge bell to the church in his memory. On it was engraved "To live in the hearts of those we leave behind is not to die."

"Mrs. Blinn called it a Christmas bell, for it was hung on December 22nd. She requested that, in addition to its regular tolling, it be rung every Christmas morning."

*"At its dedication, she said *This bell is presented with deep gratitude for precious memories of the past, and may all that you hear be ringing in great happiness for you...for all the years down the ages.*"*

Enough about bells. However, It does illustrate that things don't last forever and we need to maintain our home. Did we mention that we were planning a Capital Campaign?

Thanks

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