



## *Chapter 1*

# **“Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land”**

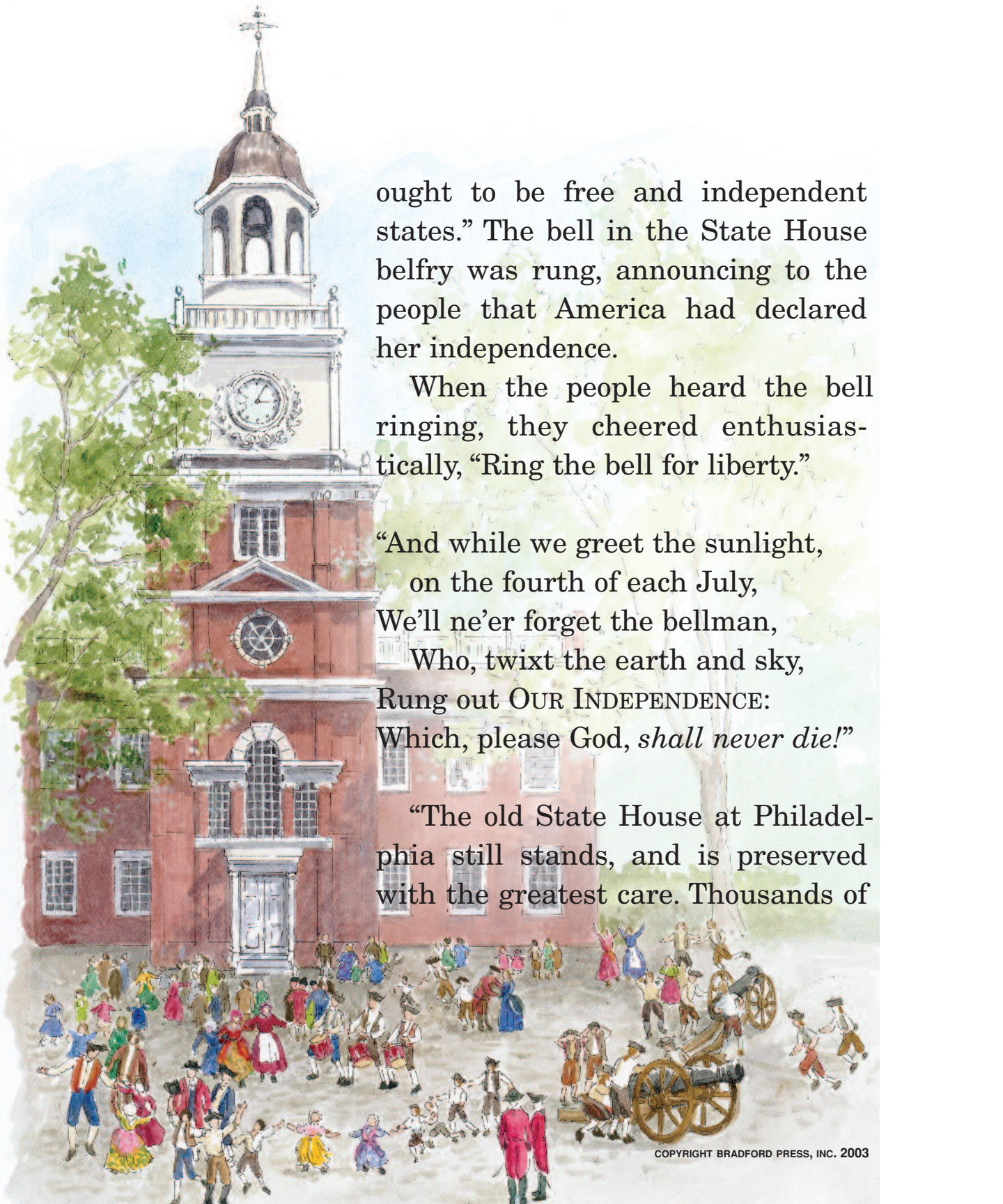


Liberty is very precious to the people of America. Living in a land of liberty provides great opportunities and blessings. Knowing the story of American liberty will help us remember how special it is to live in a land of liberty.

In 1776, the Declaration of Independence was written and signed. The delegates at the old State House announced to the world that the American people were determined to protect their liberty.

While the members of the Continental Congress met in the State House, the people waited anxiously to hear the news. What would the representatives decide? Would America keep her liberty?

Inside the State House, the representatives solemnly declared “that these united colonies are and of right

A detailed watercolor illustration of the Old State House in Philadelphia. The building is a three-story red brick structure with a prominent clock tower and a cupola topped with a weather vane. A large green tree stands to the left of the building. In the foreground, a large crowd of people in 18th-century attire is gathered in a square. Some are dancing in a circle, others are playing drums, and a cannon is visible on the right. The scene is festive and celebratory.

ought to be free and independent states.” The bell in the State House belfry was rung, announcing to the people that America had declared her independence.

When the people heard the bell ringing, they cheered enthusiastically, “Ring the bell for liberty.”

“And while we greet the sunlight,  
on the fourth of each July,  
We’ll ne’er forget the bellman,  
Who, twixt the earth and sky,  
Rung out OUR INDEPENDENCE:  
Which, please God, *shall never die!*”

“The old State House at Philadelphia still stands, and is preserved with the greatest care. Thousands of



people from all parts of the United States visit it every year, for here Congress met in 1776, and here the Declaration of Independence was signed, July 4th. In the State House hung the Liberty Bell.

“This bell was bought in England, in 1752, for the State House. It was then the largest bell in America. Upon the first trial ringing it cracked, and it hung unused in the steeple for a year. It was then taken down and recast, with these words in relief letters around its top: *‘Proclaim liberty throughout the land, unto all the inhabitants thereof.’* In the hall underneath this very bell, twelve years later, Congress did indeed proclaim liberty, and the joyful ringing of this bell first told the crowd of anxious people that the Declaration of Independence had been passed. For two hours the tones of the bell floated down from above and mingled with the roll of drums, the booming of cannon, and shouts of the multitudes below.

“After more than fifty years of service, the bell was cracked again, and could no longer be used. It is now kept as a sacred relic of the past.”<sup>1</sup>

Although the Liberty Bell no longer rings, Americans still enjoy the liberty which it announced. Americans



have the liberty to choose where they will live. Americans can choose the people who will rule over them. Americans can choose their own careers. Americans can choose where they will attend church.

Many Americans do not realize that liberty is a gift from God. Studying history will teach us the story of liberty.

### **His Story**

History began when God created the earth. Since the beginning of time, God has worked in the lives of men. God also works in each nation. History is the record of God working in the lives of men and nations.

Studying history will teach us why we have liberty in America. It will teach us that each person in America has a responsibility for his nation. Studying history will also teach us how other nations can have the same liberty we have in the United States of America.

