

Act 2

Johnny: Mother! Father! The teacher let us out of school early.

Polly: What's going on? Why are so many people here?

Mrs. Mickley: The British are just a few days away from our city.

Mr. Mickley: We've been asked to put the Old State House Bell onto our wagon. We need everyone to help.

Narrator: It takes many men and a team of horses to retrieve the bell from the belfry of the State House.

Mr. Mickley: We need to cover the bell with hay.

Johnny: Hey, look at this! There are words written on the bell:

Proclaim Liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof.

Polly: What do they mean?



Mr. Mickley: It means to tell everyone who lives in this great nation that they are free. Our Patriots are fighting for that freedom right now.

Act 3

Mrs. Mickley: I was just a girl when this bell arrived in Philadelphia. Do you know that this is not the first State House bell?

Johnny: What do you mean?

Mrs. Mickley: The first State House bell cracked the first time it was rung. After that, it was melted and recast.

Polly: Did that happen in 1753?

Mrs. Mickley: Actually, the bell was first recast in 1752. That bell sounded awful. So, the men melted it down again and tried again. They made this final bell in 1753.

Act 4

Narrator: The Mickleys are told to go to Northampton Town and hide the bell under a church there. It is a three-day journey.

Johnny: There's Jamie Brewster!

Jamie: Hi, Johnny! Why are you carrying a big load of hay? Didn't your family have anything they wanted to save?

Johnny: Of course we did. But we are true patriots and we are on a mission.

Jamie: What's the mission?



Polly: Shhhh! We have the Old State House Bell in our wagon.

Jamie: Wow, it takes up the whole wagon! I never realized how big it was. It looked a lot smaller up there in the belfry.

Mr. Mickley: The bell is 12 feet across the bottom. It barely fit in our wagon.

Jamie: We've got a bell hidden on our wagon, too. But it's a lot smaller. So, we were able to take some of our possessions, too. My mother heard that not one single bell was left in the city.

Johnny: Good! That serves the British right.

Jamie: Did you have to abandon everything?

Polly: No. We were lucky. A friend had room for a few of our things on his wagon.

Jamie: I think you're really lucky to have the Old State House Bell on your wagon. I bet it's the most famous bell in the whole country.

Johnny: Do you remember how they rang it last year when they called us together to read the Declaration of Independence?