

LIBERTY BELL

In 1950, the U.S. Department of Treasury donated a Liberty Bell to each state to promote the Savings Bond Independence Drive, in hopes it would *"serve forever as a symbol to the people...of the independence which is their priceless heritage."*

The bell is an exact replica of the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia; it has the same dimensions, same weight (2,080 pounds), aged-oak yoke, iron straps and hand-forged bolts. The identical inscription, *"Proclaim liberty throughout all the land and to all the inhabitants thereof. Lev. XXV:10"* is inscribed. The famous crack is only indicated, allowing the bell to ring with the clarity its ancestor had.

Maine's bell sits on the State House lawn facing the Blaine House.



PUBLIC SAFETY MEMORIALS



Along State Street, there are three memorials commemorating Public Safety; one for Law Enforcement, one for Fire Fighters and one for Emergency Medical Technicians. These memorials commemorate the men and women who serve in Public Safety, many as volunteers, and memorialize those who have died in the line of duty serving their communities. The Law Enforcement Memorial is inscribed with the names of members who have died in the line of duty, the Fire Fighter Memorial has the Fireman's Prayer inscribed on it, while the Emergency Medical Services Memorial has a large glass panel with the Star of Life.

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

Dedicated on April 24, 2001, the statue, located outside the museum, honors the young men of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) who, from 1933 to 1942, changed the face of Maine by building parks, roads, trails, forests and other projects. Their work has left a lasting legacy for which all citizens of Maine owe a debt of gratitude.

In Maine, over 17,000 young men served in the Corps between 1933 and 1942. To qualify for the CCC, men had to be unemployed, between the ages of 17 and 25 and come from families receiving assistance. Each person was paid \$30 a month, of which \$25 was sent to his family and the \$5 could be used for personal expenses; they were provided room, board, clothing and tools. The CCC carried out many notable projects in Maine, such as constructing roads and trails in Baxter, Mt. Blue, Rangeley, and Camden Hills State Parks; constructing roads and bridges in Acadia National Park; constructing many segments of the Appalachian Trail; building the Evans Notch Road from Fryeburg to Gilead in the White Mountains National Forest; and constructing and planting trees in portions of Capitol Park.



RURAL SCHOOLS OF THE PAST

An old school bell, stands at the south entrance of the State House *"...to remind us of the past, when school bells such as this were an important part of school and community life."* In 1964, the two-story Brookton Grammar School was demolished and the bell was given to the State. The bell now sits quietly as a testament to the State's seven schools in the unorganized territories.

CAPITOL PARK

One of the crowning jewels in the State of Maine is the beautiful landscape between the State House and the Kennebec River known as Capitol Park. It is the earliest known consciously designed public ground in Maine. The spatial structures of Capitol Park were established in 1827, the same year in which the Legislature approved a permanent seat of the government be established in Augusta.

The intent of the design was to create a dignified setting for viewing the State Capitol Building along with other public functions. That role is still being carried on today. Over the years Capitol Park has served many varied purposes, including camp site and parade grounds during the Civil War and leased farmland after the war.

In addition to the walking trails lined with oaks, beeches and pines trees, the historic park is home to Governor Enoch Lincoln's tomb, a granite block dedicated to the victims of 9/11, and the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial.



SAMANTHA'S DREAM FOR PEACE

Samantha Reed Smith was born on June 29, 1972, in Houlton, Maine, later moving to Manchester. In 1982, ten year old Samantha wrote to Soviet Premier Yuri Andropov expressing concerns about the possibility of nuclear war. Samantha's letter was published in the official Communist newspaper, Pravda.

Dear Mr. Andropov,

My name is Samantha Smith. I am 10 years old. Congratulations on your new job. I have been worrying about Russia and the United States getting into a nuclear war. Are you going to vote to have a war or not? If you aren't, please tell me how you are going to help not have a war. This question you do not have to answer, but I would like to know why you want to conquer the world or at least our country. God made the world for us to live together in peace and not to fight.

Sincerely, Samantha Smith

Her letter prompted a reply from Premier Andropov who invited Samantha and her parents to visit the Soviet Union. The trip received worldwide attention and to many, Samantha became the symbol for children's hope of a peaceful future.

After she returned from her trip, Samantha continued her activism for peace. With her father's help, she wrote a

book entitled Samantha Smith: A Journey to the Soviet Union. In addition, Samantha traveled to Japan to speak at an International Children's Symposium, appeared on the Disney Channel interviewing the 1984 presidential candidates, and visited children of Soviet diplomats in Washington. Two songs, both entitled "Samantha's Song", were inspired by her and her quest for peace.

On August 25, 1985, Samantha, aged 13, and her father, Arthur, died in a plane crash. In memory of Samantha, the Soviet Union created a stamp in her likeness, and named a mountain, diamond, planet and schools after her.

In 1987, the Maine Legislature established a commemorative day in her honor. Every first Monday of June, Samantha's message and mission are celebrated.

A statue of Samantha was erected in Augusta, next to the State Museum and Library. The life-sized bronze statue of Samantha is beneath some birch trees, set against a wall of pink granite. A bear cub, symbolic of both the Soviet Union and Maine, rests at her feet. A white dove, a symbol of peace, is poised to fly from her hand. She wears blue jeans, Nike sneakers and an Izod shirt like the one she wore during her famous trip.

Produced and Distributed by
Darek M. Grant, Secretary of the Senate
Marcia Homstead, Assistant Secretary
Rev. 03-19

HALL OF FLAGS

The Hall of Flags is in the rotunda section of the second floor and is a main gathering area for groups visiting the State House.

The Hall of Flags is so named because of the battle flags from Maine regiments that fought in the Civil War that were donated to the state for display by returning soldiers. Later, flags from the Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War and Desert Storm were added to the displays; the originals have been removed for preservation purposes to the Maine State Museum and have been replaced by replicas. Also in the Hall of Flags are memorial plaques to World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, the Global War on Terrorism, Medal of Honor Recipients and Maine women veterans. There are also portraits of Maine political dignitaries such as William King, the first Governor of the State of Maine and a bust of Governor Percival Baxter.



Attractions In & Around the State House

