

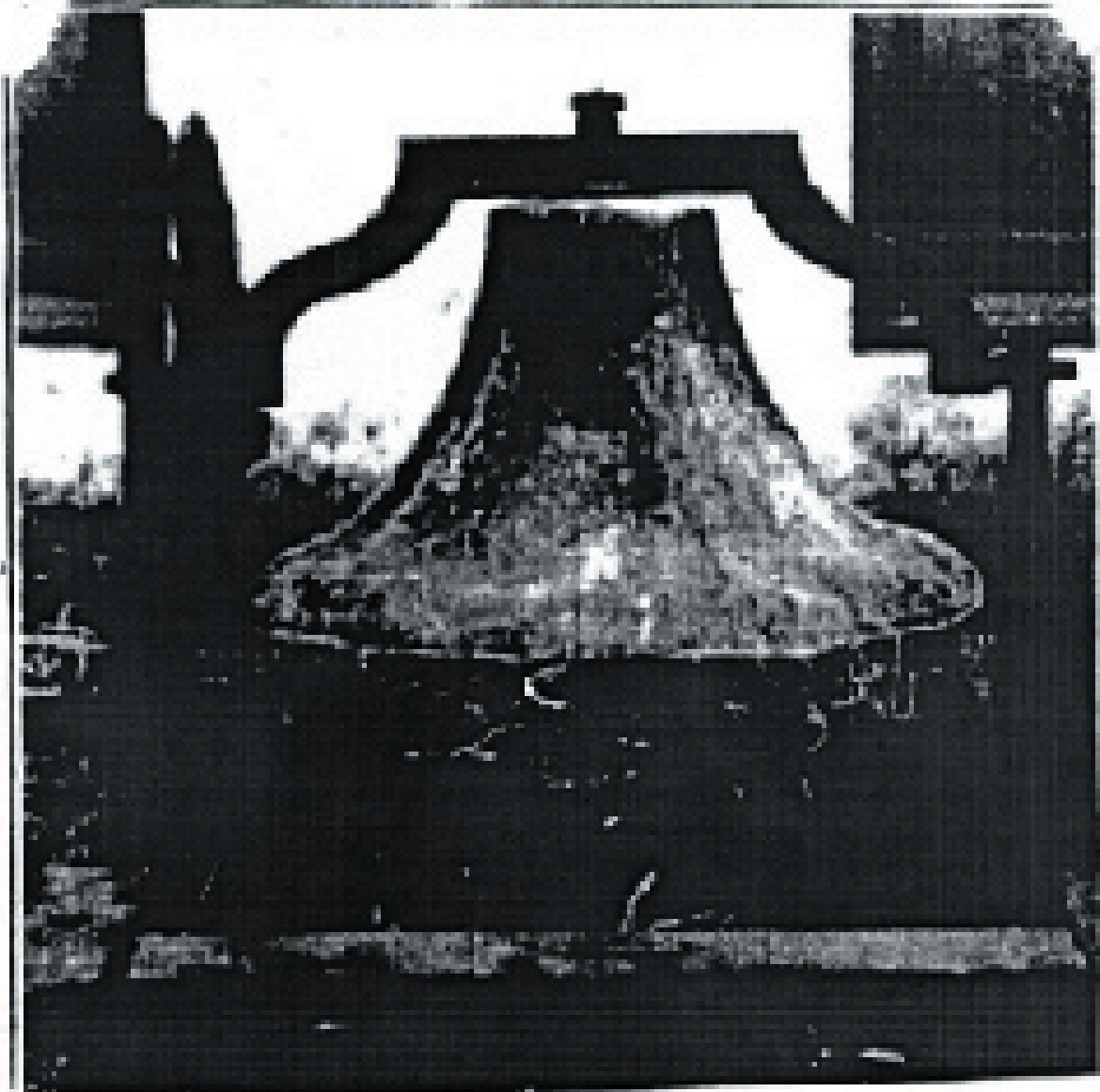


ALWAYS ON THE SQUARE! WJT 1/26/06

WILLIAMSBURG

1857 ♦ SESQUICENTENNIAL ♦ 2007

First Bell Brought To Williamsburg



Information sought on Williamsburg bell

The Williamsburg Sesquicentennial Committee is seeking information about the city's historic bell. An article from a 1937 Journal Tribune stated the bell was being stored in the basement of the current Williamsburg Elementary School. After calling school officials, no bell

was found in the basement. While the bell at the Williamsburg High School football stadium resembles this bell, it is not the same bell.

Was the bell sacrificed during World War II rationing? Was it given to someone for safe keeping? Is it being stored somewhere in town?

If you have any information about the bell, contact the sesquicentennial committee at (319) 668-1651, or email marymiller@iowatelecom.net.

Results of the inquiry will be printed in this column once the bell has been located.

The following article was printed in the Sept. 30, 1937 edition of the Journal Tribune:

"Above is a photographic reproduction of the bell purchased in 1865 by the school children of Williamsburg and Mathew Long, according to W.R. Long. It was placed in the old building that served both as the Congregational Church and the public school, then located where the new Presbyterian Church now stands. The present city hall is the same structure and the bell remained in the belfry until 1887 when the brick building, recently torn down, was completed. This bell served three purposes – school bell, church bell and fire alarm. It is now in the basement of the new grade school and there has been some talk of mounting the bell and placing it on display."