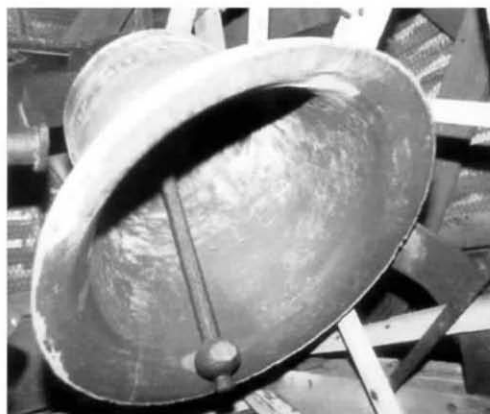


The Falmouth Bell

by Katharine Lee Bates

Never was there lovelier town
 Than our Falmouth by the sea.
 Tender curves of sky look down
 On her grace of knoll and lea.
 Sweet her nestled Mayflower blows
 Ere from prouder haunts the spring
 Yet has brushed the lingering snows
 With a violet-colored wing.
 Bright the autumn gleams pervade
 Cranberry marsh and bushy wold,
 Till the children's mirth has made
 Millionaires in leaves of gold;
 And upon her pleasant ways,
 Set with many a gardened home,
 Flash through fret of drooping sprays
 Visions far of ocean foam.
 Happy bell of Paul Revere,
 Sounding o'er such blest demesne,
 While a hundred times a year
 Weaves the round from green to green.

Never were there friendlier folk
 Than in Falmouth by the sea,
 Neighbor-households that invoke
 Pride of sailor-pedigree.
 Here is princely interchange
 Of the gifts of shore and field,
 Starred with treasures rare and strange
 That the liberal sea-chests yield.
 Culture here burns breezy torch,
 Where gray captains, bronzed of neck,
 Tread their little length of porch
 With a memory of the deck.
 Ah, and here the tenderest hearts,
 Here where sorrows sorest wring,
 And the widows shift their parts,



Paul Revere bell in the steeple of the First Congregational Church of Falmouth. Photo by Bruce Chalmers.

Comforted and comforting.
 Holy bell of Paul Revere
 Calling such to prayer and praise.
 While a hundred times the year
 Herds her flock of faithful days!

Greetings to thee, ancient bell
 Of our Falmouth by the sea!
 Answered by the ocean swell,
 Ring thy centuried Jubilee!
 Like the white sails of the Sound,
 Hast thou seen the years drift by,
 From the dreamful, dim profound
 To a goal beyond the eye.
 Long thy maker lieth mute,
 Hero of a faded strife;
 Thou hast tolled from seed to fruit
 Generations three of life.
 Still thy mellow voice and clear
 floats o'er land and listening deep,
 And we deem our fathers hear
 From their shadowy hill of sleep.
 Ring thy peals for centuries yet,
 Living voice of Paul Revere!
 Let the future not forget
 What the past accounted dear!