

Bicentennial bells to ring

BRATTLEBORO — Among the oldest and largest bells scheduled to be rung at noon Monday to mark Vermont's bicentennial is the one in the tower of the First Baptist Church on Main Street.

According to research by local historian William St. John, the bell was cast in 1868 by Jones & Co. of Troy, N.Y. It weighs 4,545 pounds, cost \$1,800, and is 4 feet, 6 inches in diameter. It was first heard in Brattleboro on Sept. 8, 1868, and at that time was said to be the largest bell in Vermont.

Local coordinator of the bell-ringing is Brooks Memorial Library Director Meris Morrison. Although the library doesn't have a bell, Morrison says she will stand in front of the library and ring a hand bell.