

Sun Chair, Colonial Garden, Liberty Bell LIBERTY!



The Rising Sun Chair

The "Rising Sun Chair," especially commissioned for the Assembly Room, is a replica of the chair in which George Washington sat during the Constitutional Convention of 1787. The chair has this unusual name because of the design of the half sun carved into its back. Taking note of the emblem, Benjamin Franklin remarked, "Painters often times have a difficult time in their art distinguishing between a rising sun and a setting sun. Often, ... I have looked at that behind the President and wondered whether it was rising or setting. However at length I have the happiness to know it is a rising and not a setting sun." Our chair -- crafted by R. H. Bond, whose avocation is building fine wood furniture -- was commissioned by his daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. J. William Hamer.



The Southern Living Colonial Garden

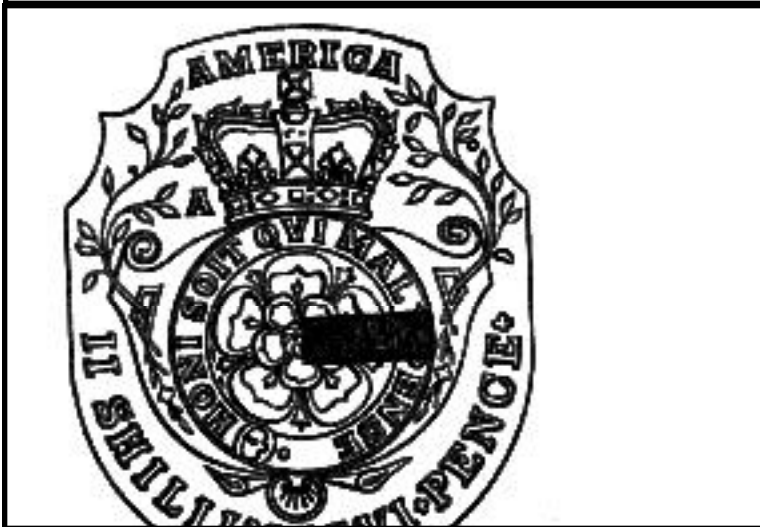
A formal Federal Lawn Garden and a formal Pleasure Garden filled with flowering plants which change with the seasons evoke memories of those gardens which decorated homes in the 18th century. A gift from *Southern Living*, the garden was planned by Long and Associates of Birmingham and by *Southern Living's* Editor John Floyd.

Thomas Jefferson was an avid gardener who introduced numerous fruits, vegetables, and flowers to America. Loving nothing better than working in his Monticello garden, he once remarked that "The greatest service which can be rendered to any country is to add a useful plant to its culture."

The Liberty Bell

The American Village's Liberty Bell is an exact full-scale replica, made for The American Village to commemorate the 250th anniversary of The Bell. It was cast by Skylight Studios, Inc., of Massachusetts from a mold made from the original bell. This replica was funded by a special grant acquired through the leadership of Rep. Johnny Curry and by a generous gift from the Friends of The American Village.

The Liberty Bell was commissioned November 1, 1751 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of William Penn's Charter of Privileges for his Pennsylvania colony. The radical charter granted religious liberty to persecuted faiths, including Quakers, Jews, Catholics and others, thus establishing America's tradition of religious freedom. The Bell cracked when first tested. Two local foundrymen recast The Bell and it began service in 1753



tolling special events. In the Revolutionary War, the Bell tolled to announce the Battle of Lexington and Concord and the first public reading of The Declaration of Independence on July 8, 1776. After cracking and being repaired several times, it has not rung since 1846. Not until 1838 was it called "The Liberty Bell" when William Lloyd Garrison's anti-slavery publication, "The Liberator" published a poem about The Bell. This use by advocates of the anti-slavery movement made The Bell a new symbol of freedom.