

Construction of the Big Ben Clock Tower

A lot of people worked on the construction of the Big Ben clock tower. It all started when the Westminster palace was demolished in 1834 by a fire. Ten years later(1844), new buildings were constructed for the Houses of Parliament. They decided they wanted to add a clock tower (source 2). When they constructed the tower they added two bells to ring every hour. The bell weighed 16 tons and was created by John Warner and Sons in 1856. At the time the clock tower wasn't finished so they had to place the bells in the Palace yard (source 1). The bell cracked and they weren't able to repair it (source 2). Then in 1858 they constructed a new bell. This one weighed 13.5 tons. This bell also cracked but it was fixable. They used a lighter hammer to repair it, which prevented it from anymore cracks. Some say the bell was named after the Benjamin Hall which was 'the first commissioner of works.' Others say it was named after a famous British boxing champion named, Benjamin Caunt (source 1).

Bibliography

1) "Big Ben." , *London*. N.p., n.d. Web. 16 Dec. 2012.

<http://www.aviewoncities.com/london/bigben.htm>

2) "London's Big Ben." -. N.p., n.d. Web. 16 Dec. 2012.

<http://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/sightseeing/tourist-attraction/big-ben>