

## October 2023 SAR Pvt. Wheaton Chapter Newsletter



**Compatriots of SAR Pvt. Ephraim Wheaton Chapter and Plum Line Landscape Owner Planted the “Liberty Tree” on Michigan State Capitol Complex Grounds, see photo and newa story below [From St. Johns Independent \(On-line News Publication, sjindy.com\)](#):**



**September 29, 2023**



**“Celebrating Early:** Pete Motz of St. Johns Owner, of Plum Line Landscape, was selected by the Michigan Sons of the American Revolution to provide a Jefferson Elm as the “Liberty Tree” for Michigan’s State Capitol Grounds in celebration of America’s 250th Anniversary.

He was joined by Thomas Hamlin, Brent Workman, Christopher Blunt and Bob Craig.”  
(Photo Courtesy of Susan Hamlin and SAR Pvt. Ephraim Wheaton Chapter).

## Plans Came Together Nicely for Planting “The Liberty Tree” Last Month and Next Year for Dedicating a SAR Sesquicentennial Plaque at State Capitol Complex in Michigan Veterans Memorial Park, Lansing, on Friday, April 26, 2024

In addition to planting the Liberty Tree back on September 18, 2023, plans are now set for the Michigan Society of Sons of the American Revolution (MISSAR) along with Pvt. Ephraim Wheaton Chapter NSSAR, National Society of Sons of the American Revolution George Washington Endowment Fund, Central Michigan Chapter NSSAR, American Legion of Michigan, and Vietnam Veterans of America, Michigan State Councils.

The plans have been approved by the State of Michigan to Erect a NSSAR Plaque next to Liberty Tree to do a Ceremony in Michigan Veterans Memorial Park, on Michigan State Capitol Complex Grounds, now on **Friday, April 26, 2024** to Commemorate the 250th Anniversary of American Independence, **in front of Michigan’s Hall of Justice!**

**Next a little history lesson is provided from the New England Historical Society Newsletter, dated October 1, 2023:**

### **“SIX PLACES THAT RAISED A LIBERTY POLE**

***Beginning in 1766, the liberty pole symbolized dissent from Great Britain, but over the years it took on different meanings for the people who raised them.***



***The first liberty pole in America was actually a tree. On Aug. 14, 1765, the Sons of Liberty **hanged stamp collector Andrew Oliver in effigy** from the boughs of a large elm in Boston. Forever after it’s been known as the Liberty Tree.***

***When someone raised a red flag – a gift of **John Hancock** — at the top of the tree, it meant the Sons of Liberty should meet. British soldiers later hacked it down when they occupied Boston. As tall as 170 feet high, the liberty pole sprang up in towns throughout New England as the British Parliament imposed unpopular taxes and restrictions on the American colonies. Sometimes it stood next to a liberty tree. Sometimes it replaced the tree.***

**Historian Arthur Schlesinger, commenting on symbolic resistance to Great Britain, wrote, “In this department of silent propaganda no single venture paid richer dividends than the Tree of Liberty.”**

## **Mark Your Calendars!**

**Thursday, October 19, 2023 is the MISSAR Wheaton Chapter ANNUAL Meeting to be held again** (in-person) at:

*St. Johns Brewing Company  
200 N. Clinton Avenue  
St. Johns, MI 48879*

Wheaton Chapter Members and MISSAR Guests are invited to this Wheaton Annual Meeting (in-person, no ZOOM). **Social Hour starts at 4:15 PM, Dinner is 5:15 pm and Meeting starts at 6:15 PM EDT. Restaurant closes at 8 pm.**

**Election of Officers is the MAIN business for our meeting. As Chapter President, I’m term limited, so who will be NEW President? Who will be the OTHER NEW Officers?** Past State President David VanHoof is Chairperson of the Wheaton Chapter Nominations Committee. He will present recommendations. Feel free to volunteer to be an Officer or Committee Chairperson. Please contact David VanHoof at: Email: [david.w.vanhoof@gmail.com](mailto:david.w.vanhoof@gmail.com) OR Mobile telephone 571-499-7480.

## **Mark Your Calendars!**

**MISSAR State Annual Meeting and Board of Managers is Set for April 12-13, 2023 in Lansing, Crowne Plaza Hotel. More details to follow from MISSAR. SAR Pvt. Ephraim Wheaton Chapter is the host Chapter and we’re excited to Welcome MISSAR Compatriots from all over Michigan to the Capitol City!**

**MISSAR NEEDS MORE COMPATRIOTS TO BECOME SAR COLOR GUARDSMAN-- WILL YOU JOIN??**

I’m always proud of the many MISSAR Color Guardsmen who often help us at SAR Pvt. Ephraim Wheaton Chapter public events, dedications, ceremonies, etc. **This is especially true for those SAR**

Color Guardsman who promote American History, SAR and patriotism. See photo below:



(Photo of NSDAR Lansing Regent Mary Garland Jackson speaking at April 2021 Dedication of Patriot Pvt Ephraim Wheaton Gravesite and Cemetery Plaque at North Stockbridge Cemetery. MISSAR Color Guardsman (L-R) are: Commander Norm Palmer, VPG James Petres; Past State President Dennis VanWormer and Vice-Commander Kenneth Goodson.

## Background Information re: MISSAR Color Guard



"During the 18th and 19th centuries, flags were

commonly referred to as "the Colors." These colors were of primary importance to the military regiment or brigade as the line of battle was formed around the colors of the unit which were placed at the center of the line. These colors were easily seen through the smoke of battle. If the colors advanced, the line would advance. If the colors retired, the line would retire. As battles would progress and casualties mounted, the line would contract to the colors. In effect, the colors would serve as a rallying point if the line was broken or the men became dispersed. Thus, success in battle was often dependent on the handling of the colors."\*

During the American Revolutionary War, Fife and Drum soldiers (like our Patriot Pvt. Ephraim Wheaton) were also critical positions, working alongside flag bearers, see above photo. Over the chaos of the battlefield, regimental commanders communicated orders and maintained discipline through musical tunes, drumbeats and positioning of the colors. Upon hearing a specific music or beat, all company musicians along the line would repeat them, ensuring every soldier heard and understood the command.

The MISSAR Color Guard was reorganized in 2004 by now former CG Commander, Gerald Burkland, after originating in the mid-1990s with six members, including an NSSAR Minute Man, a Great Lakes District VPG, and a former MISSAR President. Commander Burkland's desire to reorganize the MISSAR CG was inspired by work performed with grave rededications, Patriot Plaque installations, meeting ceremonies as well as observing the NSSAR Color Guard at various events and ceremonies.

Currently, the MISSAR Color Guard has adopted the "Washington Guard" uniform, the one worn by General Washington's personal Life Guard, but also permits other uniform styles of the period to be worn.

\*National Society Sons of the American Revolution. *Color Guard Handbook*.

**MISSAR NEEDS MORE COMPATRIOTS TO BECOME SAR COLOR GUARDSMAN!! WILL YOU JOIN???**

**If you're interested in becoming a SAR Color Guardsman**, please contact one of our Michigan Compatriots below who are leading SAR Color Guardsman. Note that many participated in the April 2021 Gravesite and Cemetery Plaque Dedication of Patriot Pvt. Ephraim Wheaton at the North Stockbridge Cemetery, as shown in above photo:

**Commander Norm Palmer**, Email: [middleage55@aol.com](mailto:middleage55@aol.com);

**Commander Emeritus, Gerald Burkland**: Email [bftb@tds.net](mailto:bftb@tds.net);

**Vice-Commander, Kenneth Goodson**: Email [kgoodson1952@gmail.com](mailto:kgoodson1952@gmail.com);

**Color Guardsman: Robert Hawcroft**: Email [rdhcroft@gmail.com](mailto:rdhcroft@gmail.com);

**Finally, remember to Mark Your Calendars to be sure to attend Wheaton Chapter Annual Meeting on Thursday, October 19, 2023 at St. Johns Brewery**

Thanks. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me.

Regards,  
Bob Craig, President  
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