



Newsletter of the Paul Emery Chapter January 2025 Issue

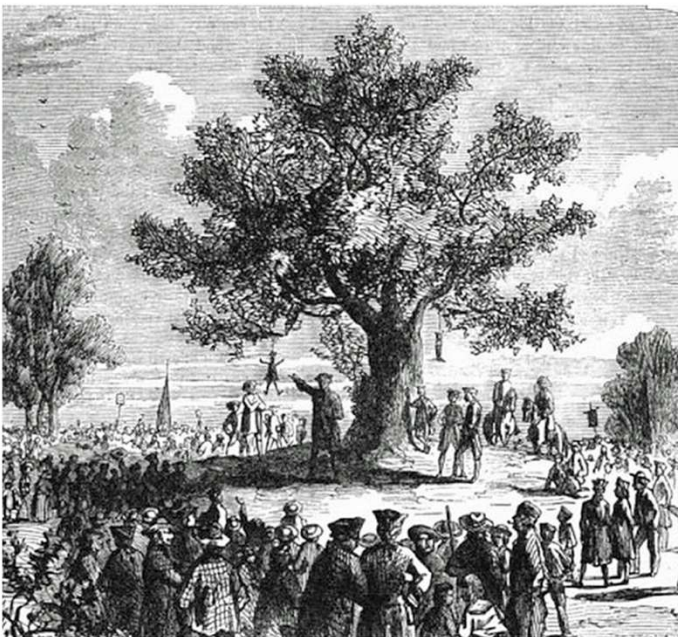


Greetings, Compatriots. There has not been a lot of activity by the Paul Emery Chapter in January. We do not have any photos, stories, or activities to publish in this issue of our chapter's newsletter but we will have activities coming up. March will be our annual meeting. In April we will dedicate a Liberty Tree at Bicentennial Park in Grand Blanc and we will have a program at the Brandon Township Library.

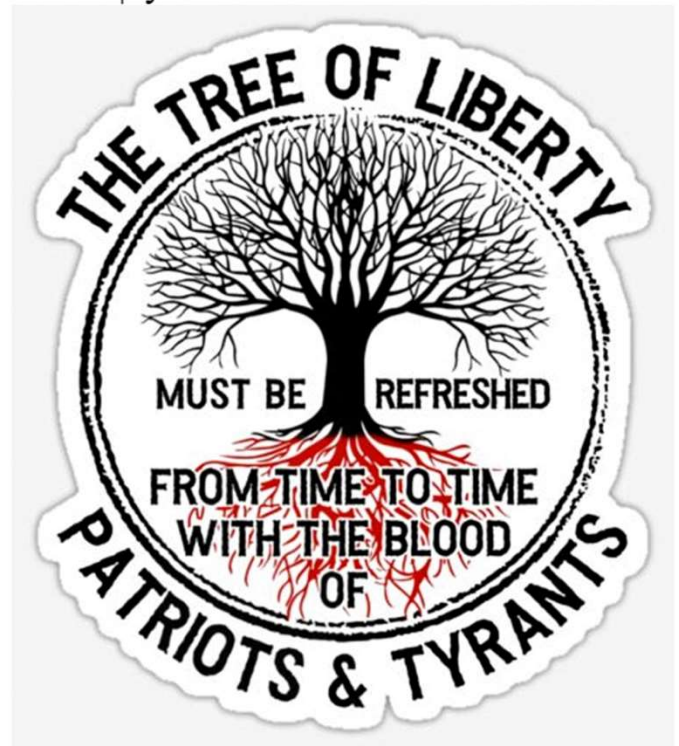
When thinking about our upcoming dedication, I began to wonder what the significance of a "Liberty Tree" is, exactly. Maybe I should do some research about the topic and report what I am able to uncover.

Here is what I have learned: The original Liberty Tree was a large elm that stood in Boston, Massachusetts near the Boston Common in the years leading up to the Revolutionary War. In 1765 the British government imposed a tax on the American colonies which came to be known as the Stamp Act. This tax was generally unpopular in the colonies and the people were angry. A group of patriots decided to resist the tax. On August 14, 1765, a crowd gathered under the elm tree to protest the Stamp Act. It was the first act of defiance against England. The tree became a rallying point for the growing resistance to the rule of Britain over the colonies. Ten years later this resistance became the Revolutionary War.

The tree became a central gathering place for protesters, and the ground surrounding it became popularly known as Liberty Hall. A Liberty Pole was installed nearby with a flag that could be raised above the tree to summon the townspeople to a meeting. When the Stamp Act was repealed in 1766, townspeople gathered at the Liberty Tree to celebrate. They decorated the tree with flags and streamers and hung dozens of lanterns from its branches when darkness fell. A copper sign was fastened to the trunk which read, "This tree was planted in the year 1646, and pruned by order of the Sons of Liberty, Feb. 14th, 1766." Soon colonists in other towns began naming their own liberty trees, from Newport, Rhode Island to Charleston, South Carolina, and the Liberty Tree became a symbol of the American Revolution.



"The Colonists Under Liberty Tree", 1865
(As imagined by Cassell's History of England)



The following comes to us courtesy of Jay Taylor. (Thanks, Jay.)

250th Anniversary Committee Update

In December, President Jim Riddell appointed a committee to lead our Chapter's efforts in planning celebrations over the next few years. These celebrations will commemorate key battles and events of the Revolutionary War, events that shaped our nation's history. Ron Barnard, Ted Spear, and Jay Taylor agreed to serve, recognizing the historical importance of their roles.

Last year, we commemorated the Boston Tea Party with an event. This year, the new committee has exciting plans for an April 28 event focusing on the Battle at Lexington and Concord. It will be held at the Brandon Township Library in Ortonville, and we're inviting Color Guard members to participate. We've also arranged for a special guest, Cheryl Gawne from the DAR Nipissing Chapter, to attend. And did you know, Bob Hawcroft has three ancestors who participated in that battle? You can register to attend at this link:

<https://www.brandonlibrary.org/ecal/#/events/ltAs919WgG/instances/4irXdFe7aN/>

For a second event in 2025, we considered planting another Liberty Tree, marking a grave, and having a speaker attend. All members should note that 250th Anniversary Medals are available for those who help plan or participate in these events. A Bronze medal is awarded at the Chapter Level, Silver at the State level, and Gold at the National level. Still, you must keep track of your points and submit your activities to National with a copy to Harry Rinker, Michigan's 250th Chairman. Members attending Chapter meetings where special 250th Anniversary update messages from National are read will also receive participation points. Please participate where you can!

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- February 8th, 2025 – State Board of Managers (BoM) Zoom Meeting from 9:00am to noon for the Paul Emery Chapter State Trustees to attend.
 - March 15th, 2025 – Paul Emery Chapter Annual Meeting at the White Horse Inn in Metamora from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.
 - April 5th, 2025 – Michigan Society Annual State Meeting open to the general membership, Lansing Crown Plaza, 8:00am to 4:00pm.
 - April 19th, 2025 – Liberty Tree Dedication by the Paul Emery Chapter at Bicentennial Park in Grand Blanc.
 - April 28th, 2025 - Brandon Township Library Program by the Paul Emery Chapter with guest speaker Cheryl Gawne, DAR from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.
 - May 17th, 2025 - Paul Emery Chapter Meeting at the White Horse Inn in Metamora from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.
 - July 19th & 20th, 2025 – Cass River Colonial Encampment of historical re-enactors at River Place Shops in Frankenmuth, visit & tour military camps and shop at historical vendors; a free educational & family-friendly event.
 - July 26th, 2025 - Paul Emery Chapter Meeting at the home of Ron Barnard from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, 462 Shalimar Ridge, Metamora.
 - September 20th, 2025 - Paul Emery Chapter Meeting at the White Horse Inn in Metamora from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.
 - November 22nd, 2025 - Paul Emery Chapter Meeting at the White Horse Inn in Metamora from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.