



Newsletter of the Paul Emery Chapter

March 2025 Issue



Election of the 2025-26 officers occurred at the SAR Paul Emery Chapter Annual Meeting held on March 15, 2025 at the White Horse Inn in Metamora, Michigan. The above photo shows the swearing in ceremony. Officers are as follows: President- J. A. Riddell, First Vice President- A. J. Wiles, Second Vice President- R. A. Barnard, Secretary- T. D. Spear, Registrar- R. D. Hawcroft, Assistant Registrars- T. D. Spear and J. A. Riddell, Chaplain- J. R. Taylor, Genealogist- M. R. Madden, Historian- D. M. Neese, Trustees- B. D. Patterson, W. E. Thompson, and J. R. Taylor, Newsletter Editor- W. E. Thompson, and Webmaster- N. G. Palmer.

The business meeting went smoothly as we received the President's report as well as committee reports from officers, trustees, and membership.

The guest speaker at our annual meeting was John D. Miller, who is the current Prosecuting Attorney for the Lapeer County Circuit Court. John delivered a very interesting talk about his life in the field of law and his duties in the circuit court. He held everyone's attention and delivered a very informative speech.



John D. Miller



Our chapter recently donated a portrait of George Washington to the White Horse Inn. The portrait is displayed prominently on the wall of the main floor dining room of the inn. The engraved plate affixed to the portrait reads, "This Portrait Was Donated To The White Horse Inn With Gratitude And Appreciation Of Their Support Of The Paul Emery Chapter Of The Sons Of The American Revolution. 2024". Shown above with the portrait are (left to right) Compatriots Jerry Burkland, Norm Palmer, Aaron Wiles, Ron Barnard, and Bob Hawcroft.



Compatriot Jay R. Taylor submits the following information regarding the Americanism Report:

President Jim Riddell recently submitted the Paul Emery Chapter's Americanism report for 2024. The purpose of the report is to encourage and track activities that promote the principles of freedom and liberty for all Americans. A wide variety of activities are recorded based upon members submitting their activities to the Americanism Chair. President Riddell will be appointing a new Chair for 2025. Be sure to let him know if you have an interest.

In total, Paul Emery Chapter's performance was again terrific overall. Here are the numbers of total points submitted each year:

2021: 1,892 points, **2022:** 1,300 points, **2023:** 2,842 points, **2024:** 2,137 points

In comparison with last year, the total declined by about 700 points, mainly due to fewer Media/Publicity (-550), Grave Marking (-490), and National/State Meeting Attendance (-65).

As a reminder, you are encouraged to track your activities and report them, perhaps quarterly, to the Americanism Chair throughout the year. It can be incredibly difficult to remember everything we've done over a longer period!

Awards are based on activity and the awarding of points for each type of activity:

- a. Directing, chairing or co-chairing an event or sub-committee for the duration of the event. (20 points)
- b. Participation in the planning, financing, promotion or conduct of an event other than directing, chairing, or co-chairing an event. Those that do direct, chair or co-chair an event and also serve as a regular member of a committee or sub-committee in a non-leadership role, may also earn points. (10 points)
- c. Attending an Event (3 points)
- d. Attending an event in Colonial Attire (5 points)

Points are cumulative. The maximum points that can be awarded for any one event is 28 points.

At the annual meeting, two of our chapter members received recognition. Compatriot Bob Hawcroft and Compatriot Bill Thompson were given Distinguished Service Medal Awards.



Compatriots Jim Riddell, Ron Barnard and Bob Hawcroft.



Compatriots Bill Thompson, Jim Riddell and Ron Barnard.



Thanks to Compatriot Jay R. Taylor for submitting this article.

The American Revolution began with a thunderous clash that would forever change the course of history. On April 19, 1775, the battles of Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts erupted, marking the first armed conflicts of the Revolutionary War.

To celebrate the contributions of our ancestors, the Paul Emery Chapter (PEC) will host two events commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the battles.

Patriot's Day on Saturday, April 19, will be observed with a short program developed by Compatriots Bob Hawcroft and Aaron Wiles. A liberty Tree will be planted at 11:30 AM at the Creasey Bicentennial Park in Grand Blanc. This event memorializes the most famous Liberty Tree, a large elm planted in 1646 near Boston Common, where it became a popular meeting spot for protests against British taxation and rule. The SAR Michigan Color Guard, the Artillery Commander, and the 1st Royal Artillery team will attend Saturday's event, led by Minuteman Larry Blackett, with remarks by Michigan State Representative David Martin. Please arrive by 11:15 AM or earlier.

On Monday, April 28th, PEC is also hosting an informative and fun family event commemorating "The Shot Heard Around the World!" at the Brandon Township Public Library in Ortonville at 6:30 PM. The Color Guard should arrive by 6:15 PM to assemble off stage. Join us in hearing Cheryl Gawne from the DAR Nipissing Chapter in Lapeer describe what drove the British to attempt to confiscate colonists' arms and ammunition. Other featured appearances include Michigan Representative Joshua Scrivner from the 66th District, who represents Bruce & Washington townships in Macomb County, as well as Addison, Brandon, Oakland and Oxford townships in Oakland County. The SAR Michigan Color Guard will present the flags in authentic uniforms. Attendees will enjoy snacks and be eligible to receive special commemorative prizes. Free registration is required online or at the library by calling (248) 627-1460.

Don't miss these unique opportunities to connect with a crucial moment in our nation's history. These events promise to be educational and inspiring experiences for history enthusiasts of all ages.

Creasey Park is located at 1505 East Grand Blanc Rd. Exit off I-75 at Dort Highway and go north to Grand Blanc Rd. then go west a short distance to the park. Or, you can exit off US-23 at the Grand Blanc Rd. exit then go east for about three miles. The park is located on the north side of the road and the entrance is well marked.

The Brandon Township Public Library is located at 304 South St. in Ortonville, Michigan.



This article was submitted by Compatriot Norman Palmer. Though lengthy, I am printing it generally verbatim.

The **Liberty Tree** (1646–1775) was a famous elm tree that stood for 129 years in Boston, Massachusetts near Boston Common before the American Revolution.

In 1765, the British Parliament introduced the Stamp Act, which was directed at Britain's American colonies. It required all legal documents, permits, commercial contracts, newspapers, pamphlets, and playing cards in the American colonies to carry a tax stamp. The act was met with widespread anger in the colonies, and in Boston a group of businessmen calling themselves the Loyal Nine began meeting in secret to plan a series of protests against it.

In 1765, Patriots in Boston staged the first act of defiance against the British government at the tree. The tree given its size could be seen throughout the city. The tree became a rallying point for the growing resistance to the rule of Britain over the American colonies, and the ground surrounding it became known as **Liberty Hall**.

On August 14, 1765, a crowd gathered in Boston under a large elm tree at the corner of Essex Street and Orange Street to protest the Stamp Act. Hanging from the tree was a straw-stuffed effigy labeled "A. O." for Andrew Oliver, the lieutenant-governor of Massachusetts. Beside it hung a boot with its sole painted green. This second effigy represented two members of the Grenville ministry who were considered responsible for the Stamp Act: the Earl of Bute (the boot being a pun on "Bute") and George Grenville (the green being a pun on "Grenville"). Peering up from inside the boot was a small devil figure holding a copy of the Stamp Act and bearing a sign that read: "What Greater Joy did ever New England see — Than a Stamp man hanging on a Tree!" This was the first public show of defiance against the Crown and spawned the resistance that led to the American Revolutionary War 10 years later.

A liberty pole was installed nearby with a flag that could be raised above the tree to summon the townspeople to a meeting. Ebenezer Mackintosh was a shoemaker who handled much of the hands-on work of hanging effigies and leading angry mobs, and he became known as "Captain General of the Liberty Tree. Paul Revere included the Liberty Tree in an engraving, "A View of the Year 1765".

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 Tree of Liberty became a familiar symbol of the American Revolution. A tree was planted in all thirteen colonies to establish one of their own.

In April 1775, colonial forces barricaded Boston Neck in the Siege of Boston, including the Common and the Liberty Tree. Only British troops and a small number of Loyalist merchants remained on the Neck, and sometime between August 28 and 31, a party of Loyalists led by Nathaniel Coffin Jr. or by Job Williams cut down the tree and used it for firewood. It was a grand total of 14 cords of wood. A cord of wood is 8 feet long by 4 feet wide by 4 feet high, that tree was a total of 1792 square feet. One soldier was killed in the process from a fallen branch.

Following the British evacuation of Boston in 1776, patriots returning to the city erected a liberty pole at the site. For many years, the tree stump was used as a reference point by local citizens, similar to the Boston Stone.

In October 1966, the *Boston Herald* began running stories pointing out that the only commemoration of the Liberty Tree site was a grimy plaque installed in the 1850s on a building at 630 Washington Street, three stories above the intersection of Essex and Washington Streets. Reporter Ronald Kessler found that the plaque was covered with bird droppings and obscured by a Kemp's hamburger sign. Local guidebooks did not mention

it. To call attention to how obscure the site had become, Kessler interviewed waitresses at the Essex Delicatessen below the bas-relief plaque on Washington Street. None knew what the Liberty Tree was. "The Liberty Tree? That's a roast beef sandwich with a slice of Bermuda onion, Russian dressing, and a side of potato salad," said one waitress who had worked beneath the plaque for 20 years. Kessler persuaded Massachusetts Governor John A. Volpe to visit the site. A photo of Volpe examining the plaque from a fire engine ladder appeared on page one of the October 6, 1966 edition of the *Boston Herald*.

In 1974, funding was approved for a small park at Washington and Essex, which was part of an area known as the Combat Zone and at the time was an area of adult entertainment and solicitation. Plans to plant trees there had to be scrapped because there were too many underground utilities. The Boston Redevelopment Authority ultimately placed a small bronze plaque in the sidewalk across the street from the bas-relief plaque. The plaque bears the inscription "SONS OF LIBERTY, 1766; INDEPENDENCE of their COUNTRY, 1776."

In December 2018, the city opened Liberty Tree Plaza at 2 Boylston Street, across the street from the original bas relief or sculptured technique. The plaza has tables and chairs, landscaping, lighting, an elm tree to commemorate the original tree cut down in 1775 before the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War, and a stone monument inscribed with the history of the Liberty Tree. The Liberty Tree "became a rallying point for colonists protesting the British-imposed Stamp Act in 1765 and became an important symbol of their cause," the inscription says. "These 'Sons of Liberty' began the struggle that led to the Revolutionary War and American independence." Boston's Old State House museum houses one of the flags that flew above the Liberty Tree, and one of the original lanterns hung from the tree during the Stamp Act repeal celebration in 1766.

Following the British evacuation of Boston in 1776, patriots returning to the city erected a liberty pole at the site. For many years, the tree stump was used as a reference point by local citizens, similar to the Boston Stone. During an 1825 tour of Boston, The Marquis de Lafayette declared, "The world should never forget the spot where once stood Liberty Tree, so famous in your annals."

After British soldiers burned that tree in 1775, colonists planted 13 new Liberty Trees in each of the 13 colonies. Now that legacy is continuing. The last surviving liberty trees one was a tulip poplar tree, which was in Annapolis, Maryland." PJ Roup, the senior grand warden of the Pennsylvania Freemasons, explained recently.

Roup said Hurricane Floyd destroyed that last surviving liberty tree in Maryland in 1999, but the Freemasons are using seeds from the tree to grow a liberty tree in across all 67 counties in Pennsylvania. In preserving history, a Maryland renown guitar maker purchased much of the destroyed tree wood and made beautiful guitars from it. He said "It was better than it becoming pencil and pen sets."

We, involved in the SAR America 250th Project are continuing to re-establish this legacy in America. The iconic and historical Liberty Tree was planted in 1646. It was the South End of Boston on the corner of Essex and Orange St. (Orange St. was later renamed Washington.) I am a member of the MISSAR Paul Emery Chapter and proud to share and recognize my ancestral history.

Through the Ancestry program and other lineage and historical papers I realized that I was a descendant of Griffith Bowen. He was Welsh who came to this country and the Boston area from Wales in 1638. He brought his wife Mary along with children Mary, Margaret, and Henry Bowen.

At a South End Boston town meeting November 29th 1643, he was granted ownership of a house lot on the corner of Washington and Essex. He lived there until 1647 and then returned abroad to England. He was said to have planted the Liberty Tree in an elm grove he wanted on his land. Many pictures were made of his home and the tree and have been circulated in many historical documents and writings.

I (Compatriot Palmer) have many papers to establish his land ownership. I am a member of the MISSAR Paul Emery Chapter and proud to share and recognize my ancestral history.



**LIBERTY TREE, 1774,
CORNER OF ESSEX AND ORANGE STREETS.**

The world should never forget the spot where once stood Liberty Tree, so famous in your annals. -- *La Fayette in Boston.*

Upcoming activities ---

- 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.
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This wraps up the March issue of our newsletter. If you have any items that you would like to see printed in the April issue, please send them to me at- wethompson@yahoo.com Thank you!