



# Newsletter of the Paul Emery Chapter

## June 2025 Issue



Several of our chapter members attended the Flag Day Event on June 14<sup>th</sup> at Uncle Ray's Ice Cream Store in Fenton. I believe that Compatriots Bob Hawcroft and Aaron Wiles were there and there may have been others of which I am not aware. Below is a copy of a newspaper clipping from the Tri-County Times Midweek Edition of 6/16/2025, page 17, describing the event.

tctimes.com

MIDWEEK TIMES

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

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Photos: Hannah Young



## Hundreds of kids recite the Pledge of Allegiance on Flag Day

■ Flag Day celebrated on Saturday, June 14

By Hannah Young

Nearly 500 kids with their families attended the annual Flag Day celebration at Uncle Ray's Dairyland in Fenton on Saturday, June 14.

Kids could recite the Pledge of Allegiance for a free ice cream and mini golf.

Swirls of red, white and blue were scattered throughout the event with kids and adults dressed in USA colors. The Fenton Marching Band performed the National Anthem and America the Beautiful at the beginning of the event.

Uncle Ray's Dairyland partnered with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 3243 of Fenton to run the event. The Sons of the American Revolution Paul Emery Chapter participated in the event and were dressed as some of the revolutionary

soliders including George Washington.

Vice Commander of the chapter, Bob Hawcroft, said that the organization has been coming to the event for the last five to six years.

"We are all from Revolutionary War patriots that we can prove from Ancestry.com," Bob Hawcroft said. "We're just supporting Dave. I have known him for a long time and I have been coming out here for five to six years."

Allison Willem, president of Post 3243, said that Flag Day is a day to teach the meaning behind the nation's flag. Willem's daughters recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

"Flag Day is a chance to teach all the meaning behind our nation's flag," Willem said. "As the Curtis Wolverton VFW Post 3243 Auxiliary president, I'm proud to celebrate patriotism and community, and grateful for our partnership

with Uncle Ray's Dairyland in making this day special."

During the event, parents and family members watched the children recite the pledge. Children received a flag and a free ice cream certificate (\$12 value) from Uncle Ray's.

Owner of Uncle Ray's Dairyland, Dave Durant, said kids were dressed patriotically throughout the event. Kids as young as one and two years old pledged allegiance to the flag during the event. Some children used sign language to recite the pledge. Another group of children did a rendition of "You're a Grand Old Flag!"

"Just under 500 fabulous kids this year and we are thrilled with our turnout," Durant said. "The kids all enjoyed a special complimentary treat from Uncle Ray's and a free round of minigolf. So many, many words of encouragement from the

grateful parents assured us that we had a great event. The amount of folks wanting to help promote the important Flag Day was heartwarming."

Durant noted that the veterans are the number one reason for the celebration so kids get to see an important part of America's history.

"We'll be looking forward to another great next year and thank you to all our great young patriots for participating. Our future in our great USA is bright, Durant said.

Flag Day is celebrated annually on June 14 to honor the American flag. On June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress passed a resolution stating that the "flag of the United States be 13 stripes alternate red and white... the union be 1 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation," according to his tory.com.





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On June 22, 2025, there was a dedication of a historical plaque at Chapel Cemetery near Parma, MI commemorating the three Revolutionary Patriots who are buried there. The plaque honors Privates John Wall, Samuel Hollister, and Abiathar Lincoln.

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On Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2035, there was a Liberty Tree Dedication by the Jeremiah Clark Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution at Clintonwood Park in Clarkston, MI. Shown below is a photo of that ceremony. Colorguard Commander John Lepisto mustered a number of MISSAR Colorguard members, including Dave Hill. Our own Paul Emery Chapter Vice Commander, Bob Hawcroft, was also in attendance. The ceremony also included the 1<sup>st</sup> Royal Artillery and the Seven Years War Crew led by Commander and Minuteman Larry Blackett.

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On the left is a photo of a neat cast concrete fabrication which will be installed near the Paul Emery Chapter Liberty Tree in the Creasy Bicentennial Park in Grand Blanc. The recess in the front of the device is where the plaque will be mounted. This useful object was designed and created for our chapter by Matt Adair. This is a very clever and artistic creation, and we appreciate Matt Adair's work. Thank you, Matt.

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**FOURTH**  
*of*  
**JULY**





## Declaration of Independence Facts

Throughout the winter of 1775–1776, the members of the Continental Congress came to view reconciliation with Britain as unlikely, and independence was the only course of action available to them.

On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee introduced a resolution "that these united colonies are and of right ought to be free and independent states," acting under the instruction of the Virginia Convention.

The Lee Resolution contained three parts: a declaration of independence, a call to form foreign alliances, and "a plan for confederation."

Congress formed a committee to draft a declaration of independence and assigned that duty to Thomas Jefferson.

On June 11, 1776, Jefferson holed up in his Philadelphia boarding house and began to write.

Jefferson's writing was influenced by George Mason's Virginia Declaration of Rights, as well as by his study of natural rights theory and the writings of John Locke, including Two Treatises of Government.

Jefferson later explained that "he was not striving for originality of principal or sentiment."

Instead, he hoped his words served as an "expression of the American mind."

Through the many revisions made by Jefferson, the committee, and then by Congress, Jefferson retained his prominent role in writing the defining document of the American Revolution and, indeed, of the United States.

Jefferson was critical of changes to the document and was justly proud of his role in writing the Declaration of Independence and skillfully defended his authorship of this revered document.

Less than three weeks after he had begun, the draft went to Congress.

On July 2, 1776, Congress voted to declare independence. Two days later (July 4, 1776), it ratified the text of the Declaration.

Fifty-six men from each of the original 13 colonies signed the Declaration of Independence.

They mutually pledged "to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor."

Nine of the signers were immigrants, two were brothers and two were cousins.

Eighteen of the signers were merchants/businessmen, 14 were farmers and four were doctors.

Twenty-two were lawyers and nine were judges.

The average age of a signer was 45. Benjamin Franklin was the oldest delegate at 70. Thomas Lynch Jr. of South Carolina was the youngest at 27.

By the time the Declaration of Independence was adopted, the Thirteen Colonies (New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia) and Great Britain had been at war for more than a year.

John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and Charles Carroll were the longest surviving signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Adams and Jefferson both died on July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence; Carroll was the last signer to die - in 1832 - at the age of 95.



## Calendar items -

- July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 - Parade in Fenton. (Ride on a trailer.) Contact Bob Hawcroft or Norm Palmer for details.
- July 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 - Cass River Colonial Encampment of historical reenactors at River Place Shops in Frankenmuth, visit & tour military camps and shop at historical vendors; a free educational & family-friendly event.
- July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 - Paul Emery Chapter Meeting at the home of Ron Barnard from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, 462 Shalimar Ridge, Metamora with guest speaker the Honorable Judge Laura Barnard from the DAR to talk about her state and national awards in needlepoint displays.
- September 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 - Honor Flights at Bishop Airport. (Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> depart and 17<sup>th</sup> return.)
- September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 - Paul Emery Chapter Meeting at the White Horse Inn in Metamora from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm with guest speaker Doctor Nicholas DiPucchio, visiting assistant professor, Department of History, Oakland University.
- September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 - Jeremiah Clark Chapter grave marking & plaque dedication service for (Patriots) Jeremiah Clark, Jr. / Caleb Barker Merrell, Lakeview Cemetery, Village of Clarkston from 1:00 to 2:00 pm.
- October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 - Michigan Society, Board of Managers (BoM) meeting in St. Ignace from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.
- November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 - Paul Emery Chapter Meeting at the White Horse Inn in Metamora from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm with guest Lynne McCarthy, president of the Lapeer County Courthouse Restoration Committee, who will give a presentation on the old Lapeer County Courthouse, the oldest functioning courthouse in the State of Michigan.
- January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026 - Paul Emery Chapter Meeting at the White Horse Inn in Metamora from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. (Compatriot) Bruce Patterson will give a presentation on Simpson Park Camp in Romeo, Michigan, that has been holding camp since 1865.
- March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026 - Paul Emery Chapter Meeting at the White Horse Inn in Metamora from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. (Compatriot / President) Jim Riddell of the Paul Emery Chapter will give a talk on his Patriot Ancestors.

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Okay, that's a wrap for the June issue. If you have any articles, photos, and/or interesting items that you would like to see printed in future issues, please submit them to me at [wethompson@yahoo.com](mailto:wethompson@yahoo.com). Your help is really appreciated. ~Bill