

FREDERICK WILLIAM DAME
INDEPENDENCE DAY 2013
THE LIBERTY TREE



Liberty in the United States of America is being uprooted! Since Barack Hussein Obama has usurped the presidency of the United States of America, Barack Hussein Obama has steadily been chopping away at the tree of American liberties with deliberate, evil politics that have been unchecked by the weak Congress of the United States of America. Under Barack Hussein Obama the loss of American liberties as written down in legal form in the *Constitution for the United States of America* has undergone an unprecedented censorship of freedom of speech, freedom of religion, the right to bear arms, etc. The list is long!

On May 2, 2010 *The Obama Timeline* published an essay by this author titled *The Liberty Tree*. (<http://www.theobamatimeline.com/id495.html>). As a reminder of the goals for which our Colonial Revolutionary Forefathers and the Founders of the United States of America were willing to fight a War of Independence against Great Britain and were willing to sacrifice their lives, the author has revised the essay *The Liberty Tree*.

There are always tyrants ready to place the citizenry in chains and to brainwash them into supporting and believing in the tyrant's evilness by propagandizing them with political correctness and reaching out programs to America's enemies. Barack Hussein Obama is no different. Indeed, he has been called the King Saul of America because of his wickedness.¹

Liberty is just as important in today's America as it was in 1776 – perhaps even more important – because before our very eyes Barack Hussein Obama is transforming America into a police state the likes of which the world has never seen. Be ever on the alert and be ready to fight and die for your liberties. Dear American Patriot, not to heed this admonition will cause you to lose everything that you once cherished as a free citizen!

¹ <http://beforeitsnews.com/obama/2013/04/barack-hussein-obama-will-be-the-last-united-states-president-2449962.html>.

July Fourth is American Independence Day. An appropriate, almost forgotten emblem of this day is this tree:²



The *Ulmus Americana* is also known as the American Elm. This tree has historical significance in the history of the American Colonies and their revolution for independence from Great Britain. The tree is commonly known in American history as the Liberty Tree (1646-1775). The author remembers that in his high school American history book there was a caricature of some Boston Colonials tarring and feathering a British tax collector at the Liberty Tree. At the same time they are

² http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amerikanische_Ulme *Ulmus Americana*. This work is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/) License. Fair use is permitted. This tree at Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was planted in the 1930s and is the last American elm in the gardens, the others having been lost to Dutch Elm Disease.

forcing him to swallow tea.³ We see on one of the strong branches of the American Elm that grew at the corner of Essex Street and Orange Street near Hanover Square, Boston that there is a lynching rope to indicate that representatives of the British Crown could also be lynched for their tax collecting activities, which the American Colonials regarded as being against the law of the Colonies and the British Crown because they had no representation in the British Parliament in London.



The punishment of tarring and feathering goes back to the Middle Ages. We find the first recorded use of the punishment in 1189. King Richard the Lionhearted (1157-1199, King from 1189) ordered that if any robber was traveling with the Crusaders on the Third Crusade to the Holy Land (1189-1192), he “shall be first

³ This image is in the public domain.

[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4f/Philip_Dawe_\(attributed\),_The_Bostonians_Paying_the_Excise-man,_or_Tarring_and_Feathering_\(1774\)_-02.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4f/Philip_Dawe_(attributed),_The_Bostonians_Paying_the_Excise-man,_or_Tarring_and_Feathering_(1774)_-02.jpg).

shaved, then boiling pitch shall be poured upon his head, and a cushion of feathers shook over it.”⁴

After the enactment of the Stamp Act on March 22, 1765, British government employees in the New England Colonies were threatened with tarring and feathering. However no tax commissioner actually received this punishment. When the stamp Act became effective on November 1, 1765, strangely there were no British tax commissioners in the Colonies to collect the stamp tax.

When the Townshend Duties were passed by the British Parliament in 1767 the tax on tea was amongst the provisions. This tax eventually led to the Boston Tea Party of December 16, 1773.⁵

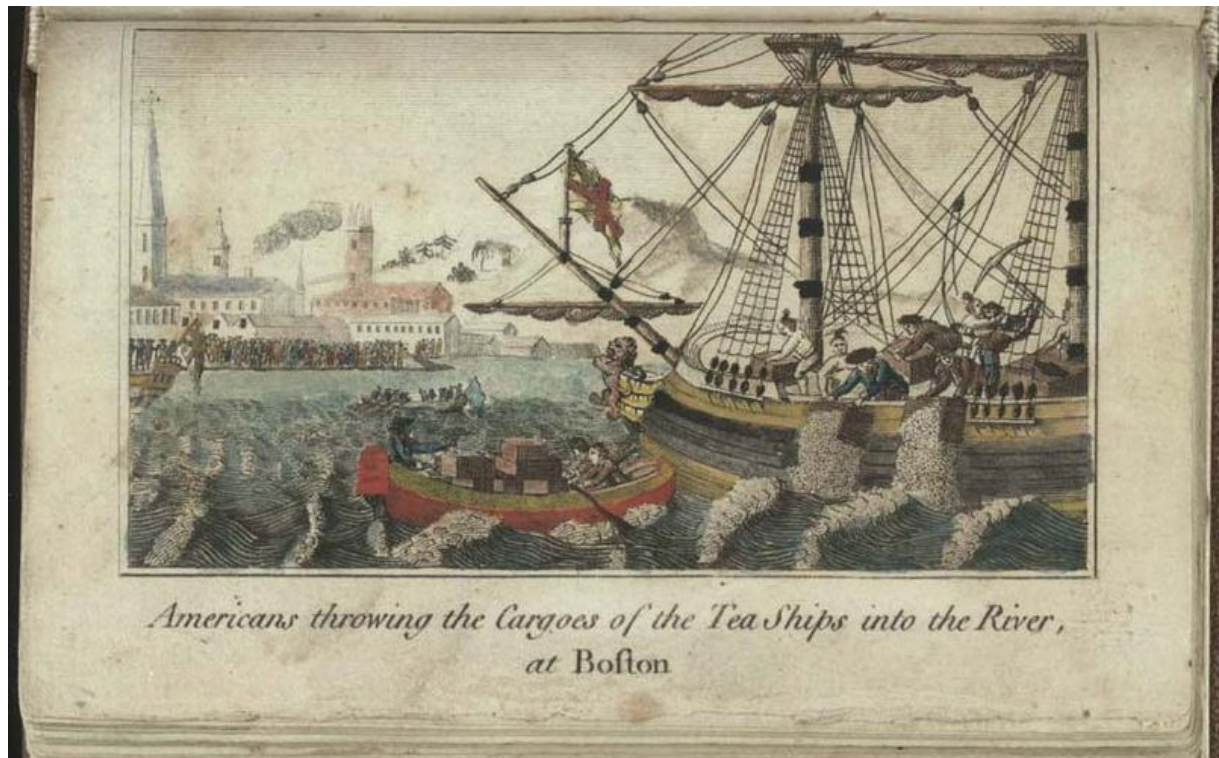


A commemorative plaque at the site of the Boston Tea Party uprising, located near the Fort Point Channel at the corner of Atlantic Avenue and Seaport Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts.⁶

⁴ http://www.bcomm.us/yankee_doodle.htm.

⁵ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston_Tea_Party gives the standard, summary of the events.

⁶ The image has been released into the public domain by the photographer Carib Digita. The plaque is at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Boston_Tea_Party_Plaque_-_Independence_Wharf_2009.jpg.



Boston Tea Party ("Americans throwing Cargoes of the Tea Ships into the River, at Boston").⁷

On the tree was a sign with the words LIBERTY TREE. From the very beginning of the days when in 1765 the British government imposed a law requiring all commercial contracts, legal documents, newspapers, pamphlets, permits, and playing cards in the American Colonies to carry an official British government stamp, liberty was the call to counter-action. Since these taxations applied to practically all written publications, the Colonists regarded the Stamp Act as a means of censorship on the rights of the American Colonials to exercise their right of freedom of communication: the freedom to write and to read.

As the story was related by my history book, a group of Boston Colonials assembled on August 14, 1765 under the large American Elm and protested against the Stamp Act. There they hung two British tax collectors in effigy. Beginning with that day the elm tree became known as the American Liberty Tree or simply, Liberty Tree. The Colonial protesters often lighted the tree. They raised a flagstaff within the tree's branches and when a yellow ensign was raised, it was a sign that the Sons of Liberty were to gather at the Liberty Tree for a protest. The practice soon spread to other New England villages. Each town had its American Elm Liberty Tree.

⁷ The image is in the public domain. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Boston_Tea_Party-Cooper.jpg.

Eventually every village planted an American Elm as a sign of their support for the Sons of Liberty and their protests against the Stamp Act and British tyranny. If there was no American Elm tree available, another tree was used. Indeed, throughout the Thirteen Colonies many towns formed their own Sons of Liberty. These groups, the Sons of Liberty, usually meet spontaneously, because an organized meeting could result in imprisonment or death for those who partook of the meetings.

The British soldiers stationed in Boston often ridiculed the Liberty Tree by tarring and feathering some of their captives and making them march in front of the tree. Near the end of August in 1775, a group of British Loyalists led by Job Williams (no dates) cut down the Liberty Tree and used the tree for firewood as an act of spiting the Sons of Liberty and those Colonials who were against the British government. Soon flags were made and were flown from Liberty Masts or Liberty Flagpoles throughout the Colonies. Such banners later became common battle flags in the American Revolutionary War.



Liberty Tree Relief on the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles Building, 630 Washington Street, Boston Massachusetts.⁸

⁸ The image is in the public domain: <http://www.thefreedomtrail.org/images/stepofftrail/LibertyTree.jpg>.

Only the Liberty Tree stump remained into the nineteenth century. Eventually it gave way to a street. Beginning in October of 1966, the newspaper *Boston Herald* began a series of stories on the famous Liberty Tree that had become lost. No one knew about the Liberty Tree, except this author and his high school history book. The *Boston Herald* found a plaque covered with bird droppings and affixed to a building at the corner of Washington and Boylston Streets. It was hidden behind a KEMP HAMBURGERS sign. Eventually, the Boston Redevelopment Authority placed a bronze relief plaque with the Liberty Tree on it. The plaque has the inscription *Sons of Liberty, 1776; Independence of the Country, 1776*.



The Liberty Tree relief on a street corner across from the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles.⁹

Sometimes *Ulmus Americana*, the Liberty Tree, is also known as the Freedom Tree. Liberty Trees still grow and stand in some of the major historical places on the Eastern Coast of the United States of America. The *Ulmus Americana* is a symbol of the highest goal of the American Revolution: LIBERTY. There are at least four reasons why the Liberty Tree is important.

⁹ <http://blog.getlocalsknow.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Liberty-Tree-18.jpg>.

1. The Liberty Tree symbolizes the fact of history that liberty is ever living.
2. The Liberty Tree emphasizes that Americans should never lose sight of Liberty.
3. The Liberty Tree gave life to the Colonial quest for freedom, a quest that is ever on-going.
4. The lack of official reference to the Liberty Tree on Independence Day shows that Americans nowadays, particularly politicians, do not have a clear picture of the ideals for which America's Forefathers stood because they have been dumbed down by at least four generations of progressive education and politics.

The author places emphasis on a poem written by Thomas Paine (1737-1809), the greatest of all American Colonial pamphleteers. The poem was texted in the early days leading up to the American Revolution, probably in 1775, and was sung to the melody *Once the Gods of the Greeks*.¹⁰ The Goddess of Liberty in the poem is a reference to the Roman goddess *Libertas*. Temples were built, shrines were constructed, and statues were erected in her honor at many places in Classical Rome. There is a story in American history that during the terribly cold Winter of 1777 the Goddess *Libertas*¹¹ appeared to General George Washington (1732-1799) in a dream and soothed his worries about the outcome of the war with Great Britain. She told him that his Army of the Potomac would be victorious over the British Forces led by General Charles Marquis Cornwallis (1738-1805).

¹⁰ The melody to this song can be downloaded at http://www.traditionalmusic.co.uk/song-midis/Liberty_Tree.htm.

¹¹ *Libertas* is the Latin word for *freedom*. In Roman mythology *Libertas* is the Goddess of Freedom. Originally, *Libertas*, *Civitas* (citizen rights) and *Familia* (family) were the preconditions for the legality of a Roman citizen. *Libertas* was often pictured on Roman coins as a beautiful woman wearing rich jewelry. Particularly American silver and gold dollar coins have a picture of *Libertas* on them. *Libertas* was the inspiration for the modern-day symbol of freedom, the Statue of Liberty. Between 27 BC and 284 AD, the individual-oriented symbol of the goddess transformed into *Libertas* becoming a symbol of the freedom of the state and the individual within the state. *Libertas* temples have been found and excavated on the Palatine Hill, the location of the first settlements in Rome, and on the Aventine Hill, the most southern of Rome's Seven Hills. Tiberius Gracchus (163/162 BC-133 BC) ordered the building of the Aventine *Libertas* Temple and the Roman politician Publius Clodius Pulcher (93 BC-52 BC) had the *Libertas* Temple built on Palatine land owned by the extradited Roman Marcus Tullius Cicero (106 BC-43 BC). The Roman Senate ordered that a *Libertas* shrine be constructed in recognition of Julius Cesar (100 BC-44 BC). However, this did not materialize. Instead, only a small statute of the goddess *Libertas* was placed in the Roman Forum.

Liberty Tree¹²

IN a chariot of light from the regions of day,
The Goddess of Liberty came;
Ten thousand celestials directed the way,
And thither conducted the dame,
This fair budding branch, from the garden above,
Where millions with millions agree;
She bro't in her hand, as a pledge of her love,
The plant she call'd *Liberty Tree*.
This celestial exotic struck deep in the ground,
Like a native it flourish'd and bore;
The fame of its fruit, drew the nations around,
To seek out its peaceable shore.
Unmindful of names or distinction they came,
For freemen like brothers agree:
With one sprit endow'd, they one friendship pursued,
And their temple was *Liberty Tree*.

Beneath this fair branch, like the patriarchs of old,
Their bread, in contentment they eat;
Unwearied with trouble, of silver or gold,
Or the cares of the grand and the great.
With timber and tar, they old England supplied,
Supported her power on the seas;
Her battles they fought, without having a groat,
For the honor of *Liberty Tree*.
But hear, O ye swains, ('tis a tale the most profane)
How all the tyrannical powers,
King, Commons, and Lords are uniting amain,
To cut down this guardian of ours;
From the east to the west, blow the trumpet to arms,
Thro' the land let the sound of it flee,
Let the far and the near, – all unite with a cheer,
In defense of our *Liberty Tree*.

The reader's attention is drawn to line (15) *With one sprit endow'd, they one friendship pursued*. It must be emphasized that Thomas Paine writes *sprit* and

¹² The poem is at <http://www.theotherpages.org/poems/paine02.html>. The song is in *The American Patriotic Songbook*, Boston: 1813.

means *sprit*. The reader must not think that the word should be *spirit*, although *spirit* would apply to the subject matter of the poem, as well. Some sources write *spirit* in their rendition of the poem. However, an etymological investigation reveals that a *sprit* is a *small pole that stretches and supports a sail*. The proto-Indo-European word root is **sper-**⁴, which means *to strew*. This sense of *strew* developed into Old English *sprūtan*, meaning *to sprout* and into Old English *spryttan*, meaning *to come forth*.¹³ It is in the sense of a seed that sprouts into a tree and its branches that Thomas Paine uses the word *sprit*. Such a usage conveys the meaning that free people contain within their being the seed(s) of liberty. The seed(s) of the spirit of liberty is an intricate feature of the make-up of the human soul. The revolutionaries of 1776 knew the meaning and the ramifications of *sprit* well.

It did no harm to this author in his school days to have to memorize the poem. It surely would do no harm to present-day American school pupils to memorize it.

The American way of life, although somewhat a colloquialism, is a never-ending quest for the moral uprightness that is necessary to maintain LIBERTY – a liberty based on ethical and moral laws. Every day is important for all Americans to exercise their responsibility in achieving the never-ending goal.¹⁴

While in Paris in 1787, Thomas Jefferson wrote the following in a letter to William Stevens Smith:

"The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants."¹⁵

Modern-day politics has become infested with *political correctness* and subverted by *reaching-out programs to political adversaries*. The results are readily seen in the destruction of the *Constitution for the United States of America*, the defamation of patriotic American national character identity, the undermining of American heritage, the criticisms of American traditions, the ridicule of American

¹³ Julius Pokorny, *Indogermanisches Etymologisches Wörterbuch*, A. Francke Verlag, Tübingen und Basel: 2005, p. 993, entry 2. (s)p(h)er.

¹⁴ Alfred Young. *Liberty Tree: Ordinary People and the American Revolution*. New York University Press. New York, NY. 2006.

¹⁵ <http://founders.archives.gov/?q=%22The+tree+of+liberty%22&s=1111311111&r=1>.

customs, and above all, the on-going poisoning of ethical and moral values and virtues.

Political correctness and government-sponsored *reaching-out programs* to America's adversaries and enemies are nothing more than euphemisms for surrender!

In this age of the putative president and dictatorial Barack Hussein Obama Americans must remember the Liberty Tree and make its symbolism come alive again. If you own a plot of land plant a Liberty Tree on it and label it Liberty Tree. If you have influence in your neighborhood or community, propose motions at town meetings for the community to plant Liberty Trees so that the spirit of freedom and liberty of 1776 lives on.

Is it not only ironic and illogical that the United States of America sends its armed forces to foreign countries to combat despotism in whatever form, political or religiously-clad Islam, yet *We the People* are willing to follow a charlatan and allow our own political system to be subverted from within by forces that want to destroy it?

Do not allow the Barack Hussein Obama regime to take away your freedoms!

PATRIOTIC AMERICANS KNOW WHO THE TYRANTS ARE!



Frederick William Dame
Patriotic, Steadfast, and True
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