

Massachusetts Society SAR 250th Anniversary of the “Boston Tea Party” Events Chronicle Summary Date:1-27-2024

The Prelude, Grave Marking the Architects of the December 16, 1773 Boston Tea Party

November 22, 2023, Boston, Massachusetts

Event Chronicle Contributed by: Reporter – Brad Bittenbender; Photographer – Patricia Hubbell

Dr. Joseph Warren, a Founding Father of the United States, at Forest Hills Cemetery, Boston.

The Boston Tea Party Museum has conducted a 5-year effort to identify and honor the 140 known American revolution figures connected to the Boston Tea party. The “Architect of the Tea Party” marker # 138 was installed at the grave of patriot Dr. Joseph Warren.



Evan O'Brien / Creative Director
Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum



Leading the Grave Marking Ceremony for Dr. Joseph Warren is George Hamilton /Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts & MASSAR member of the Henshaw Chapter.



Dr. Joseph Warren Grave Marker
Installed “Architect of Boston Tea Party”



3-Volley Musket Salute by the Col. Henry Knox
Regimental Color Guard

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Lt. to Rt. Color Guard Members: Commander Chris Tourtellot, Raymond Ellsworth, Executive Officer Jim Holmes, Ken Sterling & Scott Tourtellot

Dr. Warren, John Hancock and Samuel Adams were lead organizers but did not participate with the Son of Liberty in throwing British tea into the harbor. The MA Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Col. Henry Knox Regimental Color Guard and the Massachusetts Grand Lodge of Masons participated in the grave marking.

Dr. Warren was one of the most important figures in the Patriot movement in Boston during the early days of the American Revolution, eventually serving as President of the revolutionary Massachusetts Provincial Congress. Warren enlisted Paul Revere and William Dawes on April 18, 1775, to leave Boston and spread the alarm that the British garrison in Boston was setting out to raid the town of Concord and arrest rebel leaders John Hancock and Samuel Adams. Warren participated in the Battles of Lexington and Concord the following day, the opening engagements of the American Revolutionary War.

Warren had been commissioned a Major General in the colony's militia shortly before the June 17, 1775, Battle of Bunker Hill. Rather than exercise his rank, Warren chose to participate in the battle as a private soldier. He was killed in combat when British troops stormed the redoubt atop Breed's Hill. His death, immortalized in John Trumbull's painting, *The Death of General Warren at the Battle of Bunker's Hill, June 17, 1775*, galvanized the rebel forces. Warren has been memorialized by the naming of many towns, counties, streets, and other locations in the United States, by statues, and in numerous other ways.

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November 28, 2023; Boston, Massachusetts

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The Prelude Continued, Grave Marking the Architects of the December 16, 1773 Boston Tea Party

John Hancock and Samuel Adams at Boston’s Old Granary Burying Ground.



The Boston Tea Party Museum’s bronze grave marker

The historic Old Granary burying ground was established in 1660 on land that was part of Boston Common. The MASSAR Colonel Henry Knox Regimental Color Guard joined in the ceremony with the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum in the placement of bronze markers at the final 2 graves of the 140 known American Revolution figures connected to the night of December 16, 1773, the “Boston Tea Party.” The staff of the Boston Tea Party Museum has researched historic records to identify 140 of the participants, a 5-year project to document their names and the location of their graves. No records exist from the event because the Sons of Liberty had taken an oath of silence to not reveal their identities. Only after Yr.1800 did the men, by now senior citizens, begin to reveal their involvement. The grave marking events were organized by the Boston Tea Party Museum’s Creative Manager, Evan O’Brien. Marking these graves has included travel to all of the original 13 colonies, the America Midwest plus Ireland and France. The Colonel Henry Knox Regimental Color Guard participated at several of the grave marking events in Massachusetts.

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Opening ceremony at the Old Granary, Colonel Henry Knox Regimental Color Guard



The Boston Tea Party Museum presenter delivered an historic perspective. Members of Colonel Henry Knox Regimental Color Guard from L to R: Color Guard Commander Christopher Tourtellot, Scott Tourtellot, Jim Holmes (MASSAR President), Barry Lyle. Steve Cochrane, Brad Bittenbender and Raymond Ellsworth



Installation of the bronze marker for “Architect of the Boston Tea Party” at Samuel Adams’ grave headstone

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Installation of the bronze marker for “Architect of the Boston Tea Party” at John Hancock’s grave monument.



The November 28, 2023 date was chosen to mark the final 2 graves, the 250th anniversary of the day in 1773 when the first of 3 American owned merchant ships arrived in Boston Harbor. Each ship was laden with chests of tea owned by the British East India Company and imported from China. Patriots John Hancock and Samuel Adams, along with Dr. Joseph Warren, were lead organizers but did not participate with the Son’s of Liberty rally to the harbor, board the ships and dump the tea into the salt water. Knowing they were being watched by the British, they spent the evening at Old South Meeting House in an “on the record” discussion of “No Taxation without Representation.”



3-volley brown-bess musket salute to the memory of patriots John Hancock and Samuel Adams.



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December 16, 2023; Boston, Massachusetts

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December 16, 1773 – 2023, “Boston Tea Party” 250th anniversary. Commemoration of the Sons of Liberty protest against the Tyranny of British rule.



December 16, 2023, Boston Harbor, reenactment site at the Fort Point Channel, near the location of the original Griffin's Wharf. Present day Boston Tea Party Ships and Museum is at the right.

On Saturday, December 16, 2023, the Boston Tea Party reenactment was organized and sponsored by the City of Boston, the Boston Tea Party Ships and Museum, the Massachusetts Masonic Grand Lodge, Massachusetts Rev250 and the Massachusetts Society Sons of the American Revolution.

The tea for the event was collected by the Boston Tea Party Ships and Museum, donations came from residents of all 50 States, the international community and from its original source in 1773, the British East India Company.

Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum receipt of tea donations.



BOSTON TEA PARTY 250TH
TEA DONATION DRIVE

250th Anniversary

**DEADLINE
DECEMBER 1ST**

THE YEAR 2023 MARKS THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOSTON TEA PARTY! A MOMENT THAT FOREVER CHANGED THE COURSE OF AMERICAN HISTORY. IN HONOR OF THIS CELEBRATION, WE'RE GIVING EVERYONE AROUND THE WORLD A CHANCE TO GET INVOLVED. EVERYONE IS INVITED TO COLLECT LOOSE-LEAF TEA AND MAIL IT TO THE BOSTON TEA PARTY SHIPS & MUSEUM.

MAIL YOUR TEA!

ATTN TO:
BOSTON TEA PARTY 250TH ANNIVERSARY
BOSTON TEA PARTY SHIPS & MUSEUM
306 CONGRESS STREET
BOSTON, MA 02210

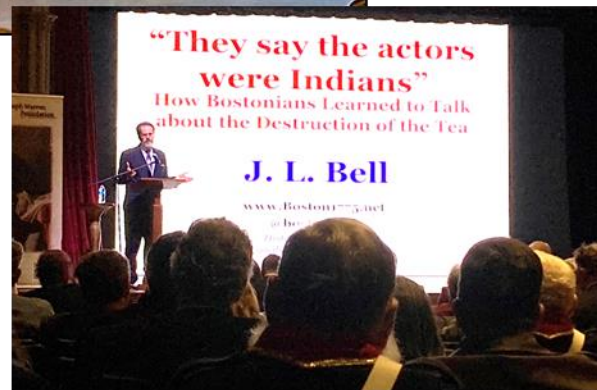
THIS TEA WILL BE USED DURING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY & REENACTMENT OF THE BOSTON TEA PARTY ON DECEMBER 16, 2023.

WWW.DECEMBER16.ORG

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**December 16, 2023 (morning & afternoon) Symposium Boston Tea 250th anniversary,
location: Gothic Hall at the Masonic Grand Lodge**

Location near the Boston Common. The morning and afternoon The Masons sponsored a public symposium on the historic backstory, social and political impact, and the architects of the Tea Party and how freemasonry shaped their revolutionary role. In attendance members of the Col. Henry Knox Color Guard.



Gothic Hall at the Grand Lodge; from Lt to Rt: John Ginsberg, Kenneth Sterling, Raymond Ellsworth, George Podmore, Edward Hoak, Christopher Tourtellot, Stephen Watts and Scott Tourtellot



Lt to Rt. Scott Collins (National Color Guard Commander), John Ginsberg, John Dodd (President General NSAR)

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Muster at 5:00 PM December 16, 2023 preparation for the Boston Tea Party Rolling Rally to Boston Harbor. Location, the Masonic Grand Lodge near the Boston Common. Present, MASSAR Colonel Henry Knox Regimental Color Guard.

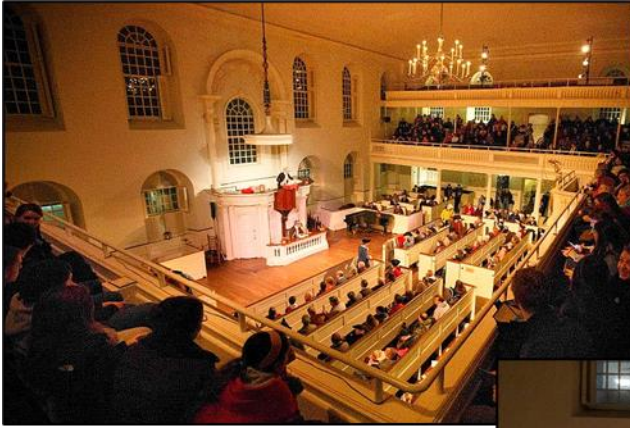
Joining Massachusetts members of the SAR were the National officers: President General John Dodd (CA), Treasurer General Mike Elston (VA), National Color Guard Commander Scott Collins (GA), National Color Guard Safety Officer Brett Osborn (VA) and Historian General Brooks Lyles (NC).



In the photo, MASSAR Colonel Henry Knox Regimental Color Guard members: David Conkling (drummer) Allan Van Wert, Brad Bittenbender, Taryn Holmes (drummer & CAR National Organizing Secretary), Jim Holmes (MASSAR President), Rodney Ventura, Steve Cochrane, Stephen Watts, Edward Hoak (Vice President General New England District), Kenneth Sterling, Raymond Ellsworth, Barry Lyle. Hans Jackson (NH) and Steve Taylor (CT). National officers present: John Dodd (President General), Mike Elston (Treasurer General), Scott Collins (National Color

A brief history: In September and October 1773, seven ships carrying East India Company tea were sent from London, England to the colonies, four were bound for Boston, and one each for New York, New York, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Charleston, South Carolina. On December 16, 1773, a Boston Town meeting was held at the Old South Meeting House (Congregational Church). There, a “Sons of Liberty” debate organized by Dr. Joseph Warren, John Hancock and Samuel Adams was held to determine the response to the British appointed Governor Hutchinson’s order to unload the tea and pay the tax on the tea that had arrived on the American merchant ships, the Dartmouth, the Eleanor and the Beaver. The ships carried a cargo of 342 chests of British East India Company tea, sourced from China.

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Interior of Old South Meeting House (Congregational Church). Reenactment December 16, 2023. John Hancock the Sons of Liberty debate. response to the arrival of the tea ships in Boston Harbor.



The British Parliament had issued a tax on the sale of tea and granted the British East India Company exclusive monopoly to sell it to the American colonies. The Old South Meeting House debate ended with the signal given to the Sons of Liberty “How would British Tea taste with salt water?” An accumulation of grievances had led to this act of protest against the British government including unfair taxation without representation. The 3 ships were boarded and all the chests of tea, a total of 92,000 lbs. were dumped into Boston harbor. The protest was a catalyst that set into motion events that led to the province of Massachusetts’ break from British government rule on April 19, 1775.

On December 16, 2023, the “Rolling Rally” for the Boston Tea Party walk to Boston harbor was led by the MASSAR Colonel Henry Knox Regimental Color Guard. At 7:00 pm, the Rally walk began at the historic Old South Meeting House and then journeyed through the city streets down to Boston harbor’s Fort Point Channel.



Exterior of Old South Meeting House (Congregational Church). Reenactment December 16, 2023. Outside attendees wait for the decision be known from the meeting inside, the response to the British tea cargo aboard merchant ships in Boston Harbor.

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The event was documented and reported by ABC television Channel 5 news, both Boston newspapers, The Boston Globe and Boston Herald, and the Boston Tea Party Museum’s Youtube video.



NSSAR President General John Dodd, being interviewed by ABC Television Chanel-5 News. With him are Edward Hoak (Vice President New England District) and Color Guard members David Conkling and Allan Van Wert.



Boston Hearld Newspaper front page photo December 17, 2023 edition. In the foreground Color Guard member Scott Tourtellot. In the background Brad Bittenbender and Raymond Ellsworth.

The Rolling Rally was lined on both the sides of the streets with several thousand attendees who then joined in the walk to Boston Harbor. Cheers rolled through the crowd of “Hazzah - Hazzah” and “Dump The Tea”. A special moment at a cross street intersection where Boston Police had blocked traffic, a driver of a sedan attempted to squeeze thru the Police line and across thru the Rally participants. The crowd promptly responded with a chorus of “Tory! Tory! Tory!” and safety was restored.

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SAR Personnel from Lt to Rt: Scott Tourtellot, Brooks Lyles (NSSAR Historian General), Steve Cochran, George Podmore, Mike Elston (NSSAR Treasurer General) and Stephen Watts

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Many “Selfie” photos taken by the public along the Rolling Rally trail.



Inquisitive children curious about the model 1762 “brown-bess” musket. Explained by a member of the Colonel Henry Knox Color Guard



A Tribute to Patricia Hubbell, the photographer for the Col. Henry Knox Regimental Color Guard. She is located in picture to the right of drummer David Conkling. With “Press Pass” in hand, dodging spectators and road potholes, she is looking for that next best photo worthy view. Photo attributed to the Boston Globe Newspaper.

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SAR Personnel from Lt to Rt: Stephen Watts, Mike Elston (NSSAR Treasurer General), Edward Hoak (NSSAR V.P. General New England District), Brad Bittenbender, John Dodd (NSSAR President General), Christopher Tourtellot (MASSAR Vice President & Color Guard Commander), Scott Collins (NSSAR National Color Guard Commander), Rodney Ventura and Kenneth Sterling.

At approximately 8:00 pm, the MASSAR Color Guard led Rolling Rally arrived at the final stop, the public grandstand area across the Fort Point Channel and in view of the tea bearing merchant ships docked at the Boston Tea Party Museum. The site of this 250th anniversary reenactment is near where the original ships, the Dartmouth, the Eleanor and the Beaver were docked in 1773.



Arrival at Boston Harbor Fort Point Channel viewing area. The Colonel Henry Knox Regimental Color Guard and the National SAR Officers, accompanied by several thousand Rolling Rally followers.

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An estimated ten thousand people lined the viewing area to witness and cheer the reenactors in their unloading of the ship's cargo of donated tea, emptying and dumping the chests into the water of Boston harbor. The event ended with a celebratory fireworks display.



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MASSAR Memories Rolling Rally Photo Gallery:



Lt to Rt; Brad Bittenbender, George Podmore, Rodney Ventura, Steve Cochrane. Old South Meeting House.



Ken Sterling and Diane Sterling. Old South Meeting House.

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Lt to Rt; Allan Van Wert, Barry Lyle, Brad Bittenbender, Jim Holmes, Scott Tourtellot, Rodney Ventura. Old South Meeting House.



Ray Ellsworth and Sherri Ellsworth, Old South Meeting House.



Taryn Holmes & Jim Holmes



Left side of picture: Jonathan Lane, Executive Director MA Revolution 250 and MASSAR member

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Sunday brunch, the morning after the 250th anniversary Boston Tea Party, Sponsored by Massachusetts Sons of the American Revolution and the Masons at the Massachusetts Grand Lodge in Boston.

This Sunday brunch honored both participants from the Society Sons of the American Revolution and Masonic Lodge members who contributed to making the 250th anniversary celebration of the previous day “the Boston Tea Party” a success. Master of Ceremony for the morning event was Jim Holmes, MASSAR President and Director of Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts.

The event opened with formal prayer delivered by Scott Tourtellot, MASSAR Chaplain and a member of the Colonel Henry Knox Regimental Color Guard.



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Ed Hoak, NSSAR V.P. General New England District, and Jim Holmes, delivered special recognition for contribution to the American Revolution 250th anniversary. They awarded the SAR Commemorative medal for the Boston Tea Party 250th Anniversary and accompanying challenge coins to: Christian DiSpigna, Chairman & Executive Director of the Dr. Joseph Warren Foundation, Jim Holmes President of MASSAR, George Hamilton, the 91st Grand Master, Masons of Massachusetts & member of MASSAR Henshaw Chapter, and to Jonathan Lane, the Executive Director of Massachusetts Revolution 250 Consortium.



NSSAR V.P.
General New
England District
Ed Hoak,
presentation of
SAR
commemorative
Boston Tea
Party 250th
Anniversary
metals



Appearing from
Lt to Rt: SAR
Commemorative
Metal
Recipients
Christian
DiSpigna, Jim
Holmes, George
Hamilton,
Jonathan Lane
and presenter
Ed Hoak

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Unanticipated, Ed Hoak and Jim Holmes requested Jonathan Lane, the president of Massachusetts Rev250, to stay at the podium. Jim Holmes announced that SAR National headquarters had confirmed Jonathan's SAR application, and then on the spot, proceeded with the assistance of Col. Henry Knox Color Guard Commander, Chris Tourtellot, to complete the membership induction ceremony and deliver to Jonathan Lane his certificate of membership and SAR lapel pin. Jonathan became a new member of the MASSAR Robert Treat Paine Chapter.



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Next, Jim Holmes spoke of the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution’s mission to ensure that not forgotten, current and future generations of Americans retain tangible links to our nation’s founding era that gave us our Constitution, Bill of Rights and a nation of free people. Jim spoke of connecting with family history and recognizing their contribution to America’s founding. To the Boston Tea Party brunch attendees, Jim introduced Sean Conley, a special guest and SAR member, a descendant of Patriot Paul Revere.



The Boston Tea Party anniversary participant brunch closed with Chris Tourtellot, MASSAR Vice President and Color Guard Commander, delivering the “A Toast to the Flag” poem written in 1917 by John J. Daly.



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