



STORY IDEAS RE: THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOSTON TEA PARTY - DECEMBER 16, 2023

The 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party will be taking place on Saturday, December 16, 2023 (the actual anniversary). Boston will be the FIRST in the nation to mark the 250th anniversary of a landmark historic event in the United States' journey to independence and will be the epicenter and on the world's stage in honoring the anniversary of the historic event that is the Boston Tea Party throughout 2023.

To culminate this anniversary year, a grand-scale live reenactment will be taking place on December 16, 2023 at Boston's historic Faneuil Hall and Old South Meeting House followed by a lively procession to the waterfront led by fife & drummers and where the Sons of Liberty will destroy loose tea sent from London's East India Company (and from tea sent in from citizens across the US) into Boston's historic waters at the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum located over the same body of water where the Boston Tea Party took two and a half centuries ago.

Here are some initial story ideas surrounding the 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party:

THE BEHIND THE SCENES OF BOSTON PUTTING ON A SEMISEQUENTIAL CELEBRATION/REENACTMENT OF THE BOSTON TEA PARTY

It takes a "village", or in the case a city, to put on a major celebration and more than a year of planning for this commemoration. All eyes will be on Boston and will be leading the way as America begins to celebrate all major historic 250th anniversaries leading up to 2026, the semiquincentennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of the United States of America. Meet Boston, the 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party Board of Advisors (BOA) and Revolution 250, a consortium of organizations working together to commemorate the 250th anniversaries of the events that led to the American Revolution, are working together to put on this MAJOR Boston Tea Party commemoration this December.



Interviews with the CEO & President of Meet Boston, the co-chairs of the Boston Tea Party BOA and the Executive Director of Revolution 250 could easily be arranged.

Also, behind the scenes footage can be arranged to highlight the following activities in preparation for the 250th Boston Tea Party anniversary reenactment at the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum including:

- Building the wooden tea crates that will be used during the reenactment and filling the tea crates with hundreds of pounds of loose tea. Where is the tea from? The East India Company, still in existence today from where the tea came that was originally destroyed during the Boston Tea Party, will be donating and shipping to Boston 250 pounds of loose tea to be thrown into Boston Harbor as part of the 250th Boston Tea Party Anniversary reenactment. In addition, a tea donation drive is currently underway through which citizens of the United States (and beyond) can participate by sending loose-leaf tea to Boston which will also be included in the tea crates used during the reenactment

- Sewing costumes for reenactors / finding material for costumes / ordering shoes from England and shoes arriving from England to the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum for the reenactors
- Meetings/calls -- seeing the team in action organize and plan all aspects of the reenactment throughout 2023

ANYONE CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOSTON TEA PARTY! SEND LOOSE TEA TO BOSTON VIA A 2023 TEA DRIVE.

Citizens of the United States (and beyond) can participate in the 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party by sending loose-leaf tea to Boston be thrown into Boston Harbor as part of the 250th Boston Tea Party Anniversary reenactment. An official certificate of participation will be sent to each person donating tea.

How to participate – all are welcome to send dried loose-leaf tea (NO used tea bags) to: Boston Tea Party 250th Anniversary, Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum, 306 Congress St, Boston, MA 02210. Include name, address, e-mail & phone number. Deadline to send tea: December 1, 2023.

BOSTON TEA PARTY PARTICIPANT GRAVE MARKER PROJECT

The Boston Tea Party Participant Grave Marker Project, which began in 2018, marks the final resting places of many of the brave, everyday people involved in the “single most important event leading up to the American Revolution” with a commemorative marker (see attached image) inspired by Nathaniel Currier’s The Destruction of the Tea at Boston Harbor lithograph created in 1846, a popular and often used artistic representation of the Boston Tea Party. ALL known participants who were regular folks -- blacksmiths, shipbuilders, printers, coppers, doctors etc. -- risked their lives for an idea in which they firmly believed ("no representation without taxation is tyranny") will receive markers by the 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party.



To date, a total of 125 commemorative markers have been placed at graves of known Boston Tea Party participants buried within some of New England's (and beyond) oldest burying grounds. In 2023, the grave markers have been and will be placed at gravesites of Boston Tea Party patriots in Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and as far away as Kilkenny, Ireland and in Paris, France at Père Lachaise Cemetery, the latter two both taking place in September 2023. The markers will be on display indefinitely. The FINAL honorary commemorative marker will be placed in Boston at the grave of Patriot Samuel Adams in the Granary Burying Ground on November 28, 2023. Interviews with Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum research coordinator Kristin Harris can be coordinated.

NEW BOSTON TEA PARTY DESCENDANTS PROGRAM



A NEW Boston Tea Party Descendants program launched in March 2023 in partnership with American Ancestors®/New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), the country’s leading resource for historical family research. The mission of the Boston Tea Party Descendant Program is to create a qualified lineage membership program dedicated to honoring and perpetuating the memories of those who actively participated in the Boston Tea Party and to foster interest in genealogical connections to participants in the Boston Tea Party, their families and those involved in this “single most important event leading up to the American Revolution”.

Applications for membership in the Boston Tea Party Descendants Program are vetted by full-time professional genealogists at the American Ancestors/NEHGS. Each application is reviewed for genealogical integrity and historical accuracy before membership is approved. The process for acceptance and vetting of application and lineage materials takes approx. 6-8 weeks. The first, inaugural vetted member of this program is John Rando, Jr. from Gloucester, MA who is related to BTP participating Joseph Dow, who was a shipbuilder and land prospector who was born in Massachusetts. Other current vetted members reside in California, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and more are in the pipeline to be vetted. Interviews with confirmed program members, Kristin Harris, researcher coordinator at the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum and the vetting team at American Ancestors/NEHGS can easily be arranged.

THE 5 TEA BLENDS THROWN OVERBOARD DURING THE BOSTON TEA PARTY— STILL AVAILABLE TODAY. INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES WITH TEA HISTORIAN/MASTER.

There were five different blends of tea were thrown into the Harbor during the Boston Tea Party. All teas are still available today and can be tasted (and purchased) at Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum's Abigail's Tea Room daily. They are:

- **Bohea:** One of the first teas imported by the East India Company in the 18th-century. Bohea was fired or dried over charcoal in tea gardens before being transported to the American colonies. As a black tea, bohea has a rich flavor similar to a contemporary oolong.
- **Congou:** This black tea was quite prestigious in Colonial America and a favorite of the British upper classes.
- **Hyson:** This early spring green tea is picked by April 20 each year and was a favorite of both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. This tea was so desired by English consumers that it was taxed at a higher rate than other teas.
- **Singlo:** Singlo is a term for Chinese green tea encompassing several varieties picked later than early spring hysons. Names for singlo tea include Twanky, Eyebrow, and Gunpowder teas.
- **Souchong:** This classic black tea came from the Wuyi Mountains in the Fujian province of China. It is famous for its very distinctive smoky aroma. Most of today's souchong exports are smoked with pinewood and are called lapsang souchong.



Interviews with Bruce Richardson, the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum's tea master who is a leading tea expert and tea historian involved in tea's American renaissance for more than 30 years, can be arranged. A writer/author, photographer, tea blender, and frequent guest speaker, Bruce spends much of his time educating Americans in the art of celebrating the communal cup of tea. He has appeared on television, radio and as a guest speaker at professional seminars such as World Tea Expo. He is a member of the editorial board for *Fresh Cup* magazine, is a columnist for *TeaTime* magazine and a contributing editor for *TEA* magazine.

ROBINSON TEA CHEST – THE ONLY KNOWN ORIGINAL TEA CHEST FROM THE BOSTON TEA PARTY



The Robinson Tea Chest is the only known tea chest still in existence from the Boston Tea Party on December 16, 1773. What we know: In the early morning of December 17, 1773, 15-year-old John Robinson walked the shoreline near Dorchester Heights, just outside of Boston. It was the morning after more than 90,000 pounds of East India Company tea had been dumped into Boston Harbor. As the water, thick with tea leaves, gently lapped ashore, Robinson's eye caught sight of a wood chest partially buried in the sand. It was a simple chest, dark green and small – 10" high, 13 1/16' wide, 11 7/8" deep – made of 1/2" thick wood. His heart must have raced when he saw it, for John Robinson would have known what all of Boston knew – just hours earlier, in the dark of night, a band of men loosely disguised as Indians struck an act of defiance against British authority. Well aware of the consequences, but motivated perhaps by youthful daring, John picked up the partially buried chest and took it home. His mother knew that having anything in their possession from the Boston Tea Party was considered treason and could have dire consequences for their family.

The chest was kept safe by the Robinson family who brought the chest to New York where it was passed down through generations. This tea chest now lies over the same body of water in which it was thrown overboard nearly 250 years ago at the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum.

VIAL OF TEA FROM THE BOSTON TEA PARTY

In conjunction with the last known surviving tea chest from The Boston Tea Party, on display at the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum is a vial of tea also believed to be from The Boston Tea Party. This vial of tea is on loan from Old North Foundation of Boston, which operates the Old North Church & Historic Site, home to the famous Old North Church, Boston's oldest surviving church building which became famous on the evening of April 18, 1775 when church sexton Robert Newman and vestryman Captain John Pulling, Jr. climbed the church steeple and hung two lanterns (one if by land, and two if by sea) as a signal from Paul Revere (followed then by his famous midnight ride) that the British were invading by sea and not land, launching the American Revolution. It is believed that the provenance for this vial of tea can be traced back to the family of Reverend Thaddeus Mason Harris (1768-1842), a Unitarian clergyman who lived in Dorchester, MA, who, as legend has it, gathered tea as a five-year-old boy when the tea thrown overboard and was carried by the tide to the beaches of Dorchester Neck Flats. The family purportedly bottled tea in numerous glass vials. Years later, Reverend Harris' mother, Rebecca Harris (1745-1801), passed a vial of the tea to her daughter Hannah Waite (1780-1845). Since then, the tea has been passed on numerous times ultimately landing with Old North Church. Another provenance of the tea, also stemming from the Harris family, was, as legend has it, shaken out of the boot of a participant of The Boston Tea Party on his return home. This vial of tea now also lies over the same body of water in which it was thrown overboard nearly 250 years ago at the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum.



ABOUT THE 250th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOSTON TEA PARTY

Meet Boston, the 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party Board of Advisors and Revolution 250, a consortium of organizations working together to commemorate the 250th anniversaries of the events that led to American Revolution, in conjunction with a multitude of organizations in Boston and throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, are working together to create a series of commemorative programs throughout the entirety of 2023, culminating in a grand-scale, live reenactment celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party which will be taking place on Sat., December 16, 2023. Details of all 2023 programming and information on the major reenactment celebration, visit www.BostonTeaParty250.com. Instagram/Facebook: @bostonteparty250; Twitter: @BOSTeaParty250.

ABOUT MEET BOSTON

Meet Boston is the primary private sector marketing and visitor services organization charged with the development of meetings, conventions, and tourism-related business, with a goal to enhance the economy of the Boston metropolitan area, and to drive visitor dollars to all of greater Boston's diverse neighborhoods and communities. Meet Boston is a not-for-profit, membership-driven sales & marketing organization of more than 900 companies in Boston, Cambridge and across New England that depend upon the visitor and convention industries for their own success and growth. For more information, visit www.meetboston.com.

ABOUT REVOLUTION 250

Formed in 2013, Revolution 250 is a consortium of more than 70 organizations and individuals led by the Massachusetts Historical Society, who are connected by a commonly held belief of the value in learning about, examining, and commemorating the history of the American Revolution. These institutions represent a long-standing commitment to understanding this history and will explore the importance of America's war for independence for years to come. Revolution 250 will commemorate the 250th anniversaries of significant people, places and events that led to the American Revolution, and the creation of such founding documents as the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. These anniversaries will be integral in engaging public interest and garnering public appreciation for the pivotal role Massachusetts played in securing the independence of the United States of America. For more information, visit www.revolution250.org.

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