



THE BOSTON TEA PARTY SHIPS & MUSEUM TO HONOR TOWN OF COLRAIN, MA MAN FOR TAKING PART IN THE BOSTON TEA PARTY WITH COMMEMORATIVE GRAVESTONE PLAQUE

***FIRST TIME Town of Colrain, MA's Chandler Hill Cemetery to Mark Gravesite of
Boston Tea Party Participant - Press Conference on Tues., May 24, 2022***

*88 Commemorative Markers Placed at Graves of Known Boston Tea Party Participants to Date.
ALL Known Participants to Receive Markers by 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party (December 16, 2023)*

WHAT: The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum, in partnership with the Town of Colrain, MA, and Revolution 250, a consortium of organizations working together to commemorate the 250th anniversaries of the events that led to American Revolution, will place a commemorative marker at the gravesite of known Boston Tea Party participant, David Lyons, in the Chandler Hill Cemetery in Colrain, MA for the first time on May 24, 2022.

Former Colrain resident and Massachusetts Patriot David Lyons was born in Roxbury, MA in 1737. Lyons served as a Collector of Taxes and town constable in Roxbury. Years after his involvement in the infamous Boston Tea Party, he moved his family to Colrain around 1784 where he became the keeper of the village tavern. While this tavern is no longer in existence, a piece of the decorated wainscoting from Lyons' tavern supposedly still exists in the Historical Museum of Deerfield (MA). Lyons lived in Colrain until his death in 1803.

The commemorative plaques mark the final resting places of many of the brave people, including tradesmen and young adults, involved in the "single most important event leading up to the American Revolution." The image depicted on the commemorative marker is 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. The marker will be on display indefinitely.

Since 2019, a total of 88 commemorative markers have been placed at graves of known Boston Tea Party participants buried within some of Massachusetts' oldest burying grounds in Boston, on the North and South Shores of Boston, and as far west as Worcester, MA. Plaques have been placed in the Center Cemetery (Harvard, MA), Central Burying Ground (Boston Common, Boston, MA), Cohasset Central Cemetery (Cohasset, MA), Copp's Hill Burying Ground (Boston, MA), Granary Burying Ground (Boston, MA), Hope Cemetery (Worcester, MA), King's Chapel Burying Ground (Boston, MA), Old Burying Ground (Gardner, MA) and Pine Grove Cemetery (Lynn, MA).

In the year, leading up to the 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party, which will be taking place on Sat., December 16, 2023, additional commemorative markers at the graves of ALL 125 known Boston Tea Party participants buried throughout New England and the United States.

WHEN: **TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2022**
11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

WHERE: **Chandler Hill Cemetery**
22 W Leyden Rd, Colrain, MA 01340

TIMELINE:

- 11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. - Ceremony in order of appearance:
 - Welcome by Thom Griffin, Town of Colrain Select Board member
 - Opening Remarks by Evan O'Brien - Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum Creative Manager
 - Comments by Jonathan Lane - Revolution 250 Coordinator, Massachusetts Historical Society
 - Ceremonial placement of marker at David Lyons' gravestone by Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum costumed actors

The 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party

The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum is working on creating a series of commemorative programs throughout the entirety of 2023, culminating in a grand-scale reenactment celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party which will be taking place on Sat., December 16, 2023. Details of all programming and information on a major reenactment celebration will be updated and posted to www.December16.org.

ABOUT THE BOSTON TEA PARTY SHIPS & MUSEUM:

The Boston Tea Party, "the single most important event leading up to the American Revolution, occurred the night of Dec. 16, 1773. The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum, owned and operated by Historic Tours of America, is dedicated to accurately reliving and representing a key time in history (1773-1775) through actors, tea throwing reenactments, high-tech interactive exhibits, authentic replica ships: the *Beaver* and the *Eleanor* and an award-winning multisensory film, *Let it Begin Here*. The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum is open 7 day/week from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Summer/Spring) and from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Fall/Winter). Tours run every 30 minutes in the fall/winter and every 15 minutes in the spring/summer and last 1 hr. Closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum was voted #1 'Best Patriotic Attraction' in *USA Today's* '10Best Readers' Choice Awards 2016'; voted 'Best New Museum' in 2021 by *Yankee* magazine and 'Best of the New 2012' by *Boston Globe Magazine*. To learn more visit www.bostontepartyship.com or call 1-855 (TEA)-1773. The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum is located at 306 Congress St. on the Congress St. Bridge, Boston, MA 02210, over the same body of water where The Boston Tea Party took place.

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