

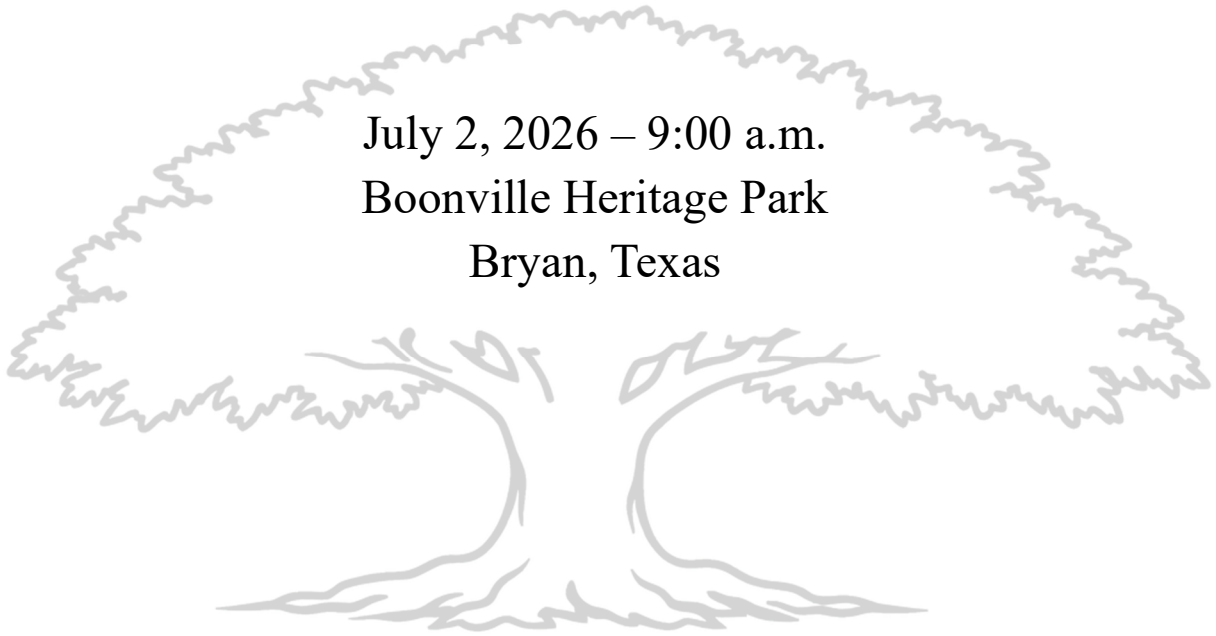
Liberty Tree

Dedication Ceremony

July 2, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.

Boonville Heritage Park

Bryan, Texas



hosted by the

**Sons of the American Revolution
Independence Chapter 40**

and the

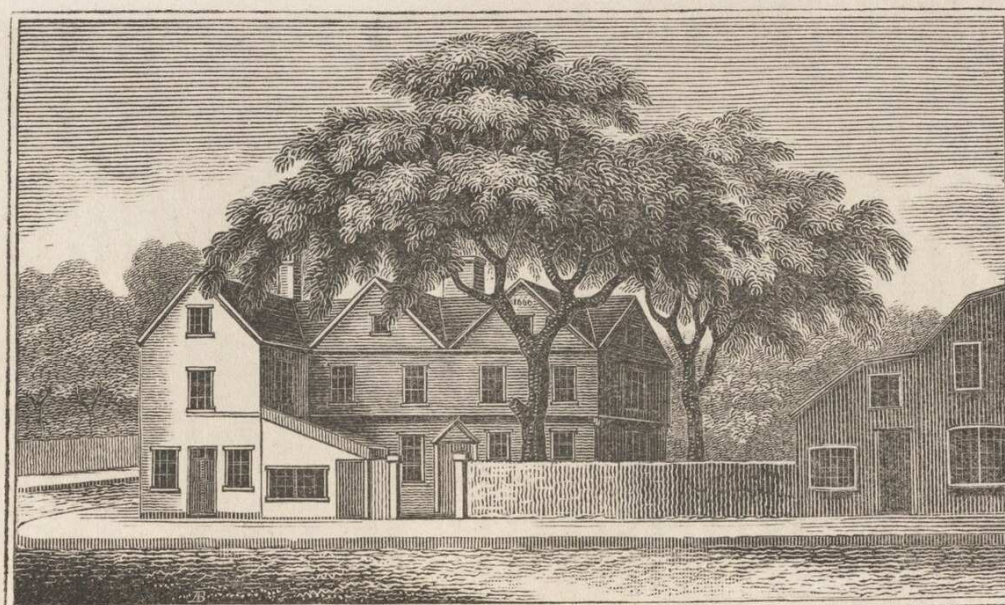
**Brazos County
Historical Commission**



The Original Liberty Tree

This Live Oak tree is being dedicated in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence from British rule by the thirteen American colonies.

The original Liberty Tree was an Elm which stood in central Boston for over 100 years, before it was chopped down by the British troops and loyalists in August 1775. In the previous ten years, it had been used in many acts of defiance of British rule in the American colonies and it soon became a symbol of revolt. Fifty years after its demise, the Marquis de Lafayette visited the tree's former location during his famous year-long tour of the United States. He declared, "The world should never forget the spot where once stood Liberty Tree, so famous in your annals."



LIBERTY TREE, 1774,

CORNER OF ESSEX AND ORANGE STREETS.

The world should never forget the spot where once stood Liberty Tree, so famous in your annals.—*La Fayette in Boston.*

As part of their commemorations for America250, a national effort of the Sons of American Revolution is to plant at least 250 new Liberty Trees across the United States. Their goal has been surpassed.

This Liberty Tree is a Live Oak and native of Texas. As the tree grows and provides shade, let it remind the citizens of Brazos County of the heroic deeds of the American Revolution patriots and the tremendous value of the liberties which Americans enjoy.

Liberty Tree Dedication Program

- Welcome: Henry Mayo, Chairman, Brazos Co. Historical Commission
- Invocation: Dennis Brunson, President, Independence Chapter SAR 40
and Chaplain, Texas Society SAR
- Presentation and
Posting of the Colors: Independence Chapter SAR 40 Color Guard
Bob Cohen, Commander
- Pledges of Allegiance
to the U.S. Flag: Seth Hudson, Past President, Independence Chapter SAR 40
- to the Texas Flag: Vicki Smith-Dicky, Co-Chair, Brazos Co. Historical Commission
- The National Anthem: All present and willing, led by Bob Cohen
- History and Dedication
of the Liberty Tree: Dennis Brunson
- Acceptance of Liberty Tree: Duane Peters, County Judge of Brazos County
- Relocation of the 1932
Courthouse Cedar marker: Mary Helen Shearer, Registrar, William Scott Chapter, NSDAR
and Honorary Chapter Regent (2015-2019)
- Closing Comments: Henry Mayo
- Benediction: Rick Dowling, Chaplain, Independence Chapter SAR 40

The Star Spangled Banner

lyrics from poem "Defence of Fort M^cHenry"
by Francis Scott Key - 1814

*O say can you see by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;*

*O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave,
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave?*

America is celebrating its 250th birthday - also known as the Semiquincentennial - to commemorate the 1776 signing of the Declaration of Independence. This milestone helps reflect on the nation's history, honors ancestral contributions, and looks toward future achievements. Americans can reflect on our past, strengthen our love of country, and renew our commitment to the ideals of democracy to unite us as a nation. America250 will foster shared experiences, inspire service in our communities, honor our enduring strength, and celebrate the resilience of the United States of America. We pause and reflect on our nation's past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look ahead toward the future we want to create for the next generation and beyond.

Acknowledgments:

SiteOne Landscape Supply – donation of Live Oak tree

Carolyn Rankin – donation in memory of James Rankin, SAR Chapter 40 member

Jane W. Cohen, La Villita Chapter, NSDAR – research and planning

Rod Redner, SAR member in Georgia - National Chairman of the SAR Liberty Tree Project

Emil Decker, SAR member in Georgia - creation of the engraved granite stone

Bob Lamkin, Russell Smithey, and other Brazos County facilities and grounds staff

Independence Chapter 40 - Texas Society SAR texassar.org/Independence

Brazos County Historical Commission brazoscountytexas.gov/history

