

[Meeting of the Sons of Liberty in the Fall 1766]

1. Christopher Gadsden, Merchant, then 42 years old.
2. William Johnson, Blacksmith
3. Joseph Veree, Carpenter.
4. John Fullerton, Carpenter.
5. James Brown, Carpenter.
6. Nath'l. Libby, Ship Carpenter.
7. George Flagg, Painter and Glazier.
8. Thos. Coleman, Upholsterer.
9. John Hall, Coachmaker.
10. Wm. Field, Carver.
11. Robert Jones, Sadler.
12. John Loughton, Coachmaker.
13. W. Rodgers, Wheelwright.
14. John Calvert, Clerk in some office.
15. H. Y. Bookless, Wheelwright.
16. J. Barlow, Sadler.
17. Tunis Teabout, Blacksmith.
18. Peter Munclean, Clerk.
19. Wm. Trusler, Butcher.
20. Robert Howard, Carpenter.
21. Alex. Alexander, Schoolmaster.
22. Ed. Weyman, Clerk of St. Philip's Church, and glass grinder.
23. Thos. Swarle, Painter.
24. Wm. Laughton, Tailor.
25. Daniel Cannon, Carpenter.
26. Benjamin Hawes, Painter.

On this occasion the above persons invited Mr. Gadsden to join them, and to meet at an oak tree just beyond Gadsden's Green, over the Creek at Hampstead, to a **collation** prepared at their joint expense for the occasion. Here they talked over the mischiefs which the Stamp Act would have induced, and congratulated each other on its repeal. On this occasion Mr. Gadsden delivered to them an address, stating their rights, and encouraging them to defend them against all foreign taxation. Upon which joining hands around the tree, they associated themselves as defenders and supporters of American Liberty, and from that time the oak was called Liberty Tree – and public meetings were occasionally **holden** there.

The original primary source document was signed by George Flagg (#7 above) and owned by the Register in Equity, Benjamin Elliott. It was reprinted in Gibbes, R.W. *Documentary History of the American Revolution: Consisting of Letters & Papers Relating to the Contest for Liberty, Chiefly in South Carolina, From Originals in the Possession of the Editor, and Other Sources, 1764-1776*. Vol. 1. 1855. Spartanburg, SC: Reprint Company, 1972. pp. 10-11. Available at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

Glossary (in order of appearance)

collation - light meal

holden - held

Definitions quoted or based on *The American Heritage Dictionary*. Third College Edition. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1997.