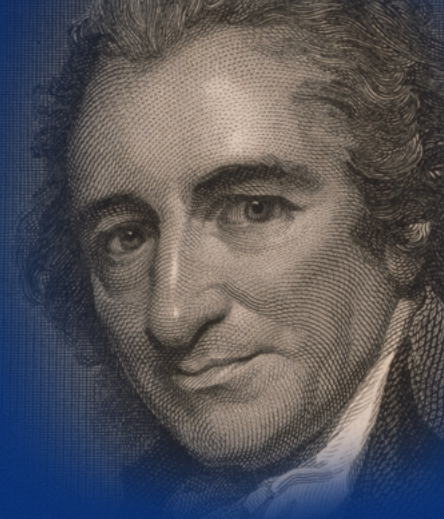


# The Beacon

March 2025 • Vol 19, No. 2

THOMAS PAINE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1884 • New Rochelle, New York • ThomasPaine.org



Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,  
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;  
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand  
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame  
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name  
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand  
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command  
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.

“Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!” cries she  
With silent lips. “Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

— **Emma Lazarus**, *The New Colossus*

*Emma Lazarus wrote  
The New Colossus in  
1883 upon hearing of  
the Statue of Liberty.*

*A gift of France, the statue  
was shipped to New York  
in 1885 and dedicated in  
1886. The sonnet was en-  
graved on a plaque placed  
on the statue base in 1902  
while America debated  
immigration policy.*

O ye that love mankind!

Ye that dare oppose, not only the tyranny, but the  
tyrant, stand forth. Every spot of the old world  
is overrun with oppression. Freedom hath been  
hunted round the globe. Asia, and Africa, have  
long expelled her — Europe regards her like a  
stranger, and England hath given her warning  
to depart. O! receive the fugitive, and prepare  
in time an asylum for mankind.

— **Thomas Paine**, *Common Sense*



By **Thomas Paine**

## Agrarian Justice: 'Pleading for a right, and not a charity'

Excerpts from *Agrarian Justice*, published 1796 in France and then America. [Verbatim, but his ALL CAPS are displayed in Title Case.]

*NOTE: Paine wrote Agrarian Justice during the French Revolution as French forces under Napoleon were battling neighboring monarchies. He set the essay aside until events drove him to publish.*

— Excerpts selected by **Barbara Crane**

To the Legislature and the Executive Directory of the French Republic: The plan contained in this work is not adapted for any particular country alone: the principle on which it is based is general. But as the rights of man are a new study in this world, ...I have thought it right to place this little work under your safeguard.

Cultivation is, at least, one of the greatest natural improvements ever made by human invention. It has given to created earth a tenfold value. But the landed monopoly, that began with it, has produced the greatest evil. It has dispossessed more than half the inhabitants of every nation of their natural inheritance, without providing for them, as ought to have been done, an indemnification for that loss, and has thereby created a species of poverty and wretchedness that did not exist before.

In advocating the case of the persons thus dispossessed, it is a right, and not a charity, that I am pleading for. But it is that kind of right which, being neglected at first, could not be brought forward afterwards till heaven had opened the way by a revolution in the system of government. Let

**'The landed monopoly... has dispossessed more than half the inhabitants of every nation.'**



*A French estate park, painted in the early 18th century, artist unknown.*

Source; Wikimedia Commons

us then do honour to revolutions by justice, and give currency to their principles by blessings.

Having thus, in a few words, opened the merits of the case, I shall now proceed to the plan I have to propose, which is,

To create a national fund, out of which there shall be paid to every person, when arrived at the age of twenty-one years, the sum of Fifteen Pounds sterling [£2,165 today, but buys less now] as a compensation in part, for the loss of his or her natural inheritance, by the introduction of the system of landed property.

And also,

The sum of Ten Pounds per annum [£1,445], during life, to every person now living, of the age of fifty years, and to all others as they shall arrive at that age.

*Continued on pg. 3*

## Agrarian Justice—*From Pg. 2*

### Means by Which The Fund is to Be Created

I have already established the principle, namely, that the earth, in its natural uncultivated state was, and ever would have continued to be, the Common Property of The Human Race — that in that state, every person would have been born to property — and that the sys-

**'The earth, in its natural uncultivated state, was the Common Property of The Human Race.'**

tem of landed property, by its inseparable connection with cultivation, and with what is called civilized life, has absorbed the property of all those whom it dispossessed, without providing, as ought to have been done, an indemnification for that loss.

The fault, however, is not in the present possessors. No complaint is tended, or ought to be alleged against them, unless they adopt the crime by opposing justice. The fault is in the system, and it has stolen perceptibly upon the world, aided afterwards by the agrarian law of the sword.

There are, in every country, some magnificent charities established by individuals. It is, however, but little that any individual can do, when the whole extent of the misery to be relieved is considered. He may satisfy his conscience, but not his heart. He may give all that he has, and that all will relieve but little. It is only by organizing civilization upon such principles as to act like a system of pulleys, that the whole weight of misery can be removed.

The plan here proposed will reach the whole. It will immediately relieve and take out of view three classes of wretchedness. The blind, the lame, and the aged poor; and it will furnish the rising generation with means to prevent their becoming poor; and it will do this without deranging or interfering with any national measures. To shew that this will be the case, it is sufficient to observe that the operation and effect of the plan will, in all cases, be the same as if every individual were voluntarily to make his will and dispose of his property, in the manner here proposed.

But it is justice, and not charity, that is the principle of the plan. In all great cases it is necessary to have a principle more universally active than charity; and with respect to justice, it ought not to be left to the choice of detached individuals, whether they will do justice or not.

A revolution in the state of civilization is the necessary companion of revolutions in the system of government. If a revolution in any country be from bad to good, or from good to bad, the state of what is called civilization in that country, must be made conformable thereto, to giveth at revolution effects. Despotic government supports itself by abject civilization, in which debasement of the human mind, and wretchedness in the mass of the people, are the chief criterians [*sic*]. Such governments consider man merely as an animal; that the exercise of intellectual faculty is not his privilege; that he has nothing to do with the laws but to obey them...; and they politically depend more upon breaking the spirit of the people by poverty, than they fear enraging it by desperation.

It is a revolution in the state of civilization that will give perfection to Revolution of France. Already the conviction, that govern-

ment, by representation, is the true system of government is spreading itself fast in the world. The reasonableness of it can be seen by all. The justness of it makes itself felt even by its opposers. But when a system of civilization, growing out of that system of government, shall be so organized, that not a man or woman

born in the republic but shall inherit some means of beginning the world, and see before them the certainty of escaping the miseries that under other governments accompany old age, the revolution of France will have an advocate and an ally in the heart of all nations.

An army of principles will penetrate where an army of soldiers cannot — It will succeed where diplomatic management would fail — It is neither the Rhine, the Channel, nor the Ocean, that can arrest its progress — It will march on the horizon of the world, and it will conquer. ▲

**'It is only by organizing civilization upon such principles as to act like a system of pulleys, that the whole weight of misery can be removed.'**



## About Thomas Paine

# The Paradox of Thomas Paine Park in NYC's Foley Square

By Adrian Tawfik

Quite appropriately, Thomas Paine Park sits next to the seat of government for the largest city in America, at civic center in New York City, the site of many political protests.

Consisting mostly of a wide stone-paved walkway flanked by benches, Thomas Paine Park is just a small part of Foley Square, a triangle bound by Lafayette, Worth and Centre Streets in the Civic Center portion of Lower Manhattan.

Thomas Paine Park is surrounded by New York City Hall, the Manhattan Municipal Building, the New York County Courthouse, the Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse (U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit), the Daniel Patrick Moynihan U.S. Courthouse, the Court of International Trade, and several massive federal office buildings.

Thomas Paine Park is a small sideshow in Foley Square that should be the main event. After all, in contrast to Paine's amazing life, Foley Square is named for a man of distinctly different moral quality.

Historically, the site centuries ago was home to a thriving fishing village on Collect Pond (at Chinatown) named *Werpoes* by the Munsee, a Lenape-speaking people, said Kenneth Jackson in his 1995 *Encyclopedia of New York City*.

By the War of Independence, reports the NYC Parks website, it was a "swamp surrounded, ironically, by three former British prisons for revolutionaries." A medallion marks the spot of an African-American burial ground from the 1700s.

The swamp later was drained, and tenements were built there. By the 1800s, Irish gangs fought turf wars here over the impoverished Five Points slum.

Five Points was the initial base of Tammany Hall. Starting in the 1850s for 100 years, Tammany Hall had almost total control of New York politics, most famously led by "Boss" Tweed.

A prominent Tammany Hall figure was Thomas "Big Tom" Foley, a saloon keeper and corrupt politician featured in Herbert Asbury's 1928 book, *The Gangs of New York*, which inspired Martin Scorsese's 2002 movie.

Foley's claim to fame in New York history was being the political godfather of Al

Smith, the New York Governor and Democratic presidential candidate. The triangle was named for Foley in 1925.

Foley also is known for his nefarious ties to Russian-Jewish gangster Mike Salter, owner of The Pelham Café at 12 Pell Street, called "the birthplace of Irving Berlin" by gangland history website Infamous New York, which wrote that Salter "was rumored to have killed ten men on the road to becoming Big Tom Foley's chief election captain." Foley used Salter for false voter registrations, ballot box stuffing, repeat voting, and especially "getting out the vote."

Foley further used Monk Eastman and his gang to conduct election fraud. When a turf war broke out between the Eastman Gang and Paul Kelly's Five Points Gang, said Asbury, Foley served as a mediator.

Foley Square at civic center now wears the name of a corrupt politician while Thomas Paine Park has a lightpost marker and no statue of the great man. Paine lived a substantial part of his life in New York and died in Greenwich Village. New York should recognize Paine's achievements and give him the place of honor at Civic Center, even at the risk of insulting "Big Tom." ▲

**Adrian Tawfik** in 2011 launched the pro-democracy website, DemocracyChronicles.org. Currently living in New York, Adrian is a TPHA board member.



Courtesy of NYC Parks



Thomas Paine Park, New York City

Photograph by Judah Freed

## Thomas Paine News

# Brazilian Scholar discusses Age of Reason at TPHA

**T**he *Age of Reason* by Thomas Paine had “democratic consequences,” said Dr. Daniel Gomes de Carvalho, a Professor of Modern History at the University of São Paulo, Brazil.

In a February 15 talk at the Paine Memorial Building in New Rochelle, Dr. Carvalho said, “By criticizing the adulterous connection between church and state, by demonstrating the impossibility of the Bible being the word of God, and by proposing the equality of all creatures before God, Paine had devastating effects on the governments using religion to maintain hierarchies and oppression.”



*Prof. Daniel Gomes de Carvalho*

Photograph by Barbara Crane

As a result of Paine, he said, “The question of democracy was at the heart of religious debate at the time.” These same debates continue today.

Livestreaming on Zoom from the Memorial Building, the program signals growing global reach for the Thomas Paine Historical Association.

Daniel Carvalho earned a doctorate from the University of São Paulo in 2017. He then served as a professor in the University of Brasília Graduate Program in Ideas. He is the author of *Thomas Paine and the French Revolution* (Editora Paco, 2023). ▲

— Judah Freed

## Thomas Paine News

# Thomas Paine: Collected Writings rewrites his story

**N**ext spring in 2026, for the 250th anniversary of *Common Sense* and the American Revolution, another revolution looms with publication of *Thomas Paine: Collected Writings*.

This is the first complete history of the life, writings, and revolutionary efforts of Thomas Paine, a champion of democracy, equality and independence from kings. Here at last are the historic facts about Paine too long suppressed by the British government and American plutocrats.

The founder of modern democracy, Paine never bent to the will of despots. He out-smarted, out-maneuvered and out-organized the autocratic and tyrannical power structure of the monarch-church alliance. Here at last is the first glimpse of Paine’s true story, backed by newly discovered writings to clarify his biography. More will come after this initial effort to correct the many historians acting as parrots for 200 years.

Here at last is the first glimpse of Paine’s true story, backed by newly discovered writings to clarify his biography.

Half of the six-volume set of Paine’s writings, in final production, consists of new material never republished since his death. To identify these writings, the Editorial Board used state-of-the-art computer analysis, tested 90 percent accurate, to uncover works and collaborative writings never before attributed to Paine. The analysis was rechecked by expert scholars who analyzed the content and context, driving up the overall accuracy.

The Editorial Board consists of the leading Paine experts in the world, four in Europe, two in the USA. Publication of print and digital books by Princeton University Press is slated for June 2026.

*Thomas Paine: Collected Writings* will not only reveal he was the real “Father of the American Revolution,” but the “Father of the Age of Democratic Revolutions.” unfolding in the world as autocracy resurges. ▲

— Gary Berton, on behalf of the Editorial Board.

**TPHA News****Merger with Thomas Paine Society in UK Prompts Our Name Change to 'Thomas Paine Historical Association'**

by Gary Berton

**W**e have a new name! Upon voting in February to merge with the Thomas Paine Society of the UK, the TPNHA board voted to drop the 1884 word "National" from our name to become the Thomas Paine Historical Association.

TPSUK has provided extensive research, information, programs, and literature for decades. We welcome them and their extensive archives, which we will make available this year on our revamped website.

TPSUK leaders Paul Myles and Stuart Wright have now joined the TPHA board. Paul Myles, born in Lewes, has researched Paine's formative period there for two books. He directed the 2009 festival in Lewes marking the 200th anniversary of Paine's death. Thetford native Stuart Wright, a chartered accountant, is a former Mayor of Thetford and now the longest sitting Councillor on Thetford Town Council.

This international merger is an historic step in our mission to educate the world about Thomas Paine. ▲



*The gilded bronze statue of Thomas Paine in Thetford.*

*Designed by sculptor Charles Wheeler and erected in 1964, the statue was re-gilded in 2020 with support from Thetford mayor Stuart Wright. The Thetford Town Council funded restoration along with a £2,000 donation from the Thomas Paine Society of England.*

Source: WikiMediaCommons, Photograph © Philip Halling, Creative Commons License

**Statement from The Thomas Paine Society in the United Kingdom**

**T**he Thomas Paine Society in the United Kingdom is merging with the Thomas Paine National Historical Association in America. They renamed their society for an international stance in keeping with Paine's quote, "I am a Citizen of The World".

The timing is very good, as they are building a new website fit to accommodate our extensive holdings, which include our digitised bulletins and journals along with lectures from our 2015 London Symposium, a film and mummery play made about Thomas Paine's time in Lewes, plus lectures by Paine experts and interviews.

The Thomas Paine Society in the UK was formed as a consequence of the controversy that followed the 1963 offer to erect a statue in Thetford to its most famous son. The arguments that arose demonstrated the need for a society that would present the facts about the man and his writings, allowing individuals to judge for themselves on the merits or otherwise.

Current TPSUK secretary Stuart Wright and treasurer and webmaster Paul Myles have held these roles for longer than ten years. Several appeals and efforts for successors bore no fruit. The fear was that the educational resource on the website was in danger of being lost.

An approach was made to the TPNHA to see if a merger would be the best way to secure this rich and varied resource.

Rather than an ending, this is a new beginning to keep alive Thomas Paine's message of fairness, clarity and hope, countering the present trend to nationalism by deepening our understanding of this extraordinary individual. ▲

— Paul Myles and Stuart Wright



## TPHA News

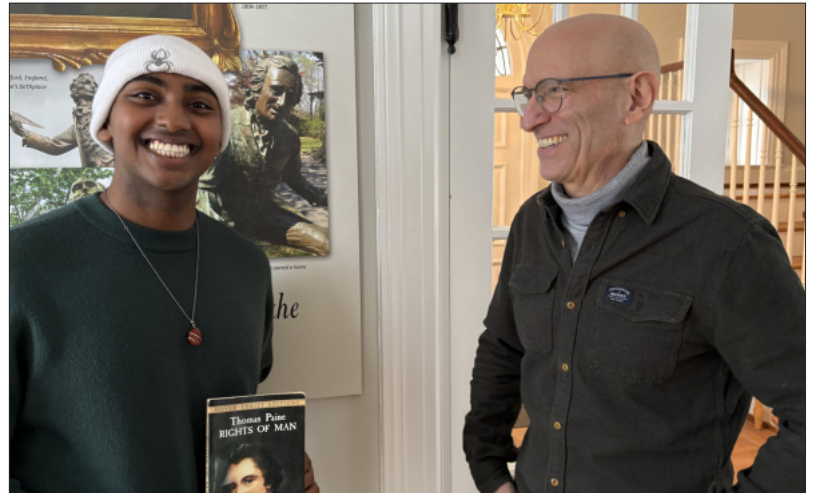
### Iona Students Volunteering as Docents at Paine Memorial Building, Now Open on Saturdays

The historic Thomas Paine Memorial Building in New Rochelle is now open on Saturday afternoons, thanks to students from nearby Iona University who serve as volunteer docents.

The first cohort of Iona docents features Mekias Assefa, Jonathan Ayewah, Emily Forcarile, and Peter Rosario. They are learning to guide building visitors through all the museum exhibits and discuss Paine's legacy.

TPHA thanks Iona University for supporting students in studying and researching the life and works of Thomas Paine.

The Thomas Paine Memorial Building is at 983 North Avenue New Rochelle, NY 10804. Open Saturdays, 1 to 4 pm. ▲



*Mekias Assefa, Iona University Sophomore, with TPHA Board member Josh Klein, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice at Iona.*

Photograph by Barbara Crane



### Florida Veterans For Common Sense

*An all-volunteer nonprofit advocate for veterans inspired by Thomas Paine to defend democracy, liberty, equality, and human rights.*

FloridaVeteransForCommonSense.org | Contact@flvcs.us

### TPHA MEMBERSHIP - Dues and Benefits

**Individual** - \$25 yearly (Beacon subscription)

**Family** - \$40 yearly (Beacon subscription)

**Supporter** - \$100 yearly (Beacon, Paine lapel pin)

**Donor** - \$500 for 1 year (Beacon, lapel pin, personal plaque)

**Benefactor** - \$1,000 yearly (All above & Memorial Building plaque)

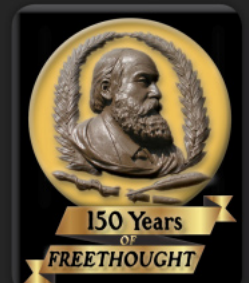
**Patron** - \$2,500, 1 year (All the above & a set of 2026 six-volume Thomas Paine: Collected Works, autographed by the Editorial Board.)



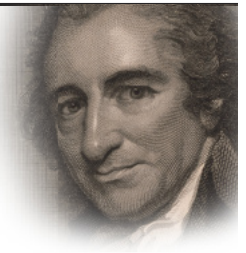
The Truth Seeker has been the world's foundational source of freethought information since 1873, longer than TPNHA has existed. The Truth Seeker was the main force behind our formation in 1884.

*The Thomas Paine National Historical Association thanks our "sister" publication for their leadership.*

Visit [TheTruthSeeker.net](http://TheTruthSeeker.net)



# *The* THOMAS PAINE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



## About TPHA

**T**he Thomas Paine Historical Association upholds the mission of educating the world about the life, works and legacy of Thomas Paine.

TPHA was founded in 1884 to correct the record on Thomas Paine by refuting negative propaganda and slanders perpetrated against him by most historians in the 19th century. We've since become the most reliable and accurate source of information about Paine worldwide. We assist scholars, authors, journalists, readers and anyone interested in Paine's life and work.

TPHA is managing the international project to complete and publish *Thomas Paine: Collected Writings*, which may double the corpus of known writings.

In New Rochelle, we operate the Paine Memorial Building and Museum, built 1925, where we hold educational programs. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, we gratefully welcome member support sustaining our efforts. ▲

### Thomas Paine Historical Association

983 North Avenue • New Rochelle, NY 10804-3609  
tpnhamail@gmail.com

## The Beacon

March 2025 • Vol 19, No. 2

THOMAS PAINE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
Founded 1884 • New Rochelle, New York • ThomasPaine.org



*The Beacon* is a bi-monthly publication for the members and friends of the Thomas Paine Historical Association

*The Beacon* from TPHA extends the volumes of Gilbert Vale's influential *The Beacon* in the mid-19th century, both restoring the legacy of Thomas Paine.

### *The Beacon* – Editorial Committee:

Judah Freed (Editor)      Frances Chiu  
Gary Berton      Adrian Tawfik

To see PDF as if in print > App menu > View > Page Display > Two-Page View.

## Board of Directors

**Gary Berton,**  
TPHA President  
Walton, NY

**Barbara Crane,**  
TPHA Vice President  
Political Scientist  
New Rochelle, NY

**Scott Cleary,**  
TPHA Secretary,  
Professor of English,  
Iona College  
Bedford, NY

**Eric Nowakowski,**  
TPHA Treasurer  
Assoc. Director, Accounting  
Purdue Pharma  
Larchmont, NY

**Roderick Bradford**  
Editor, *The Truth Seeker*,  
and documentarian  
San Diego, CA

**Frances Chiu**  
Professor of Literature and  
History, New School, NYC  
West Hartford, CT

**Judah Freed**  
Journalist and author,  
*Making Global Sense*  
Denver, CO

**John Heidenreich**  
Chemistry Teacher  
New Rochelle, NY

**Josh Klein**  
Professor of Criminal  
Justice, Iona College  
New York, NY

**Joy Masoff**  
Author and publisher  
Five Ponds Press  
San Marino, CA

**Greg McMurray**  
Writer, Paine scholar  
New York City, NY

**Richard Briles Moriarty**  
Retired Asst. Attorney  
General for Wisconsin  
Duluth, MN

**Connor Murray**  
VP of Administration,  
Student Government  
Assn. at Iona University.  
New Rochelle, NY

**Paul Myles**  
Writer, Paine Researcher  
Sussex, UK

**Jonathan Scheick**  
Professor of Psychology,  
Brookdale C.C., clinician.  
New Jersey

**Edmund Smith**  
Retired Science Teacher  
Connecticut

**Adrian Tawfik**  
Founder and editor,  
Democracy Chronicles  
Woodbury, NY

**Stuart Wright**  
Chartered Accountant,  
Town Councillor  
Thetford, Norfolk, UK

## Benefactors

Nimick Forbesway  
Foundation

J.H. Johnson Charitable  
Educational Trust  
World Union of Deists

Joy Masoff  
Todd Stiefel Foundation  
Matt & Luann Jacobs

Barbara Crane  
Julia Holofcener

**COMING SOON**  
Upgraded TPHA Website