

American Revolution: The Pine Tree Riot

As the 4th of July approaches, here is an interesting recount of the historic role that timber played in the American Revolution against Great Britain.

Did you know that at one time, Eastern White Pine was reserved for Great Britain's exclusive use by the King of Great Britain? In the mid-1600's white pine was in demand due to its large, strong trunk. The British used the trunks as masts for warships. By 1652, the King of Great Britain declared that all trees in the eastern states that could produce a mast were property of England. Before property owners could cut down any tree, it had to be examined by the King's appointed Deputy Surveyor. Trees to be saved for British masts were marked with a broad arrow. The rest of the white pines could only be used by paying a hefty sum of money to obtain a royal license. Many colonists would illegally saw the logs into wide pine floorboards for their homes. Doing this became a sign of patriotism. In fact, New Hampshire joined in the American Revolution, not because of tea, but to protect their timber supply.

The Pine Tree Riot happened when the Deputy Surveyor went to sawmills in the Piscataquog Valley. He found white pine logs at two mills and marked them with an arrow, showing that they were property of the King. The owners were ordered to appear before the court on February 7, 1772 to pay their fines. The owners of one mill paid the fines, while the other owners would not. A warrant was issued for the arrest of the mill owner and Sheriff Whiting and Deputy Quigly were sent out to arrest Ebenezer Mudgett, the owner. However, when they met, Mudgett agreed to meet the sheriff in the morning at the inn where he was staying and pay the fine. That night many men gathered and set up a plan that did not include payment. At dawn they burst into the sheriff's room and beat him with tree branch switches. The same was done to Deputy Quigly. Then, they cropped off their horses' ears and shaved their manes and tails-ruining the value of the animals. The men were then shooed out of town. Later during the same spring one of the rioters was captured and all came forward in court to accept their punishment. They were fined 20 shillings and ordered to pay court costs.

Green Building Myths

Myth #1: Green building is expensive.

Many green projects that catch the eye of builders' are higher-end jobs. There are numerous ways to make green building inexpensive such as right-sizing the building and reducing waste.

Myth #2: Green is all about the materials you use on the project

Part of green building is using green materials. However, other factors such as energy performance and the site you build on come into play in a big way too.

Myth #3: Green products are not as user-friendly as regular products

Low-flow toilets is a great example of a product people do not feel works well. More than a decade ago, these toilets were mandated for all new construction. The newest models work just as well as the older models. Regardless of the negative connotations green products have, it is proven they work as well, and in some cases, better than the traditional product.

Myth #4 Green homes are unattractive or strange looking.

Many green homes that are built today blend in well with typical homes and are indistinguishable. Huge mounted solar panels that can be unattractive can be integrated in attractive and effective ways in today's building times.



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