



The History of the **MERCER COUNTY LIBERTY TREE**

The creation of a Liberty Tree in Mercer County was conceived by the late Colonel Gary Solander, Director of Veterans Affairs who was inspired from a quote by Thomas Jefferson

“The Tree of Liberty Must be Refreshed from Time to Time by the Blood of Patriots and Tyrants”

Gary Miscky, County Extension Office, helped Mark and Linda Brown select a Black Gum tree and George Kraynak donated one. The tree was decorated May 28, 2010 with ornaments made by county widows with pictures of their deceased military loved ones. In balled form, it was dedicated at Citizens Cemetery May 31st, 2010. Reenactors dressed in uniforms and armament from each war, along with area girl and boy scouts, symbolically “watered” the tree with red water representing blood shed. Matthew Lutz of Armstrong Cable and David Martin, volunteer of the 500, filmed the dedication. On June 3rd the tree was moved to its permanent location at the Mercer County Court House before the line of military flags south of the Bandstand. Commissioner Ken Ammann was on hand to help dig the hole. The second year the tree was decorated by boy and girl scouts and in 2012 will be decorated by school children from Mrs. Meghan Glass’ s art classes. Those who participated in the original decorating and cemetery dedication, and attended its planting at the Mercer County Court House will be listed in a book being compiled which, along with a DVD of the event, will be presented to the Mercer County Historical Society.