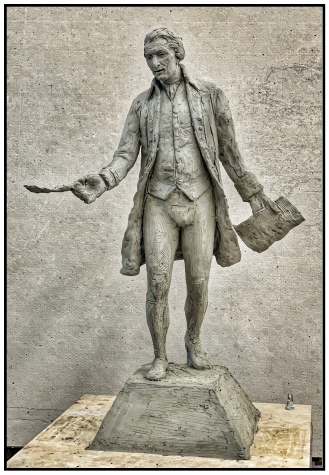
A Thomas Paine Statue: Formal Announcement



The Thomas Paine Memorial Committee (TPMC) was established in 1993 with the goal of conducting educational and entertaining programs promoting the ideals and ideas of Thomas Paine and the Freethought philosophy. Throughout the years, TPMC honored the life and legacy of Thomas Paine in many ways. The committee's efforts have received local, national and international recognition for its efforts.

In 2016 TPMC received a financial boost when the estate of **Walter A. Schmitz** named the Freethought Society (FS) as a benefactor. At that time, FS announced that a Thomas Paine sculpture project could be possible (See: "The Thomas Paine Memorial Committee Receives a Financial Boost" article printed in the March/April 2017, Volume 8, Number 2 issue of *The Freethought Society News*).

The FS board unanimously agreed that the Thomas Paine sculpture project would be designed and created by the talented sculptor Zenos Frudakis. Frudakis is considered one of the top 25 sculptors in the world. He is a Pennsylvania resident and has been a supporter of FS for over 5 years.

Frudakis created a small sample sculpture pictured in this announcement. The plan is for a final bronze statue to stand approximately 8-9 feet tall, with a base that may have the names of Paine's books – one title on each of the four-sided base. These details are subject to change as this project evolves. The rough statue sample is approximately 20" tall and shows Thomas Paine holding a copy of *Common Sense* in his left hand and a quill pen in his right hand.

FS is pleased to announce that a grant applied for through The James Hervey Johnson Educational Foundation for the creation of a Thomas Paine statue was recently approved. FS was given $5,000 to help honor the life and work of Thomas Paine through the placement of a statue. FS seeks to educate the public about the important work that was done by Thomas Paine. His writings paved the way to the Enlightenment Era and his books inspired civil revolutions on two continents that were governed under tyrannical rule. Many regard Thomas Paine as a "forgotten Founding Father." FS is determined to change that, and create a place of honor for this remarkable Freethought hero.

A target installation date for a sculpture is June 8, 2020 or June 8, 2021, as fundraising efforts dictate. June 8th is recognized in France and England as Thomas Paine Day. Thomas Paine Day is also recognized in Pennsylvania (York, Philadelphia, and Lancaster), New Jersey (Bordentown and Cherry Hill), Illinois (Champaign/Urbana), New York (New Rochelle), and California (Garden Grove). June 8th is the date of Thomas Paine's death in 1809.

So far, Washington, D.C. seems to be the preferred site for a Thomas Paine statue. Thanks to the efforts of **David Henley**, land was set aside for a Thomas Paine Monument via Public Law 103-422, S.P.J. Res. 227. It was approved on October 25, 1994 by **President William Jefferson Clinton**. TPMC is currently researching the availability of this land. The process is complicated due to government red tape.

The other preferred location would be in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Location research is ongoing and many possibilities are being considered.

In the meantime, FS is beginning a formal fundraising campaign. The projected overall cost will be approximately $400,000.00. To inspire donations, Henley has provided FS with Thomas Paine items to distribute to large donors. Please see details in the donation form below. Please consider donating generously. All donations are tax-deductible.

Donation Form for a Thomas Paine Statue

Yes! I would like to donate to the project. Please process the following financial donation for:

Name (first and last): _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, and Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____Email Address: _____

For a donation of **$50** or more the donor will receive ten Thomas Paine lapel pins.

For a donation of **$100** or more the donor will receive one CD of the writings of Thomas Paine, and ten Thomas Paine lapel pins.

For a donation of **$200** or more the donor will receive one CD of the writings of Thomas Paine, ten Thomas Paine lapel pins, and a framable color portrait of Thomas Paine.

For a donation of **$300** or more the donor will receive one CD of the writings of Thomas Paine, ten Thomas Paine lapel pins, a framable color portrait of Thomas Paine, and a Thomas Paine collectible book.

____I do not need a gift. I am donating the following amount to the Freethought Society's Thomas Paine statue project: $____ Charge cards can be used at: FtSociety.org
Note: *Any amount is appreciated; however, gifts are limited. Donors may receive special mention in this publication.*

Please mail this form to: The Freethought Society, Thomas Paine Statue Project, P. O. Box 242, Pocopson, PA 19366.
Donations can also be made online at: https://www.ftsociety.org/menu/thomas-paine-memorial-committee/