



JACKSON FOSTER
HISTORIC SIGN PAINTER & MAKER
*Hand-crafted signs in the style of
18th and 19th century artisans*

Sign of The Pine Tree

A replication of an 18th century sign, the “Pine Tree” tavern was owned by innkeeper Joseph Reed III, born in Lisbon, Connecticut in 1709. Reed became an extensive landholder with at least eight tracts located along the Quinebaug River northeast of Norwich.

The images in the sign may have been intended as a political message; the yellow sun above a pine tree being a veiled reference to the Sons of Liberty, a resistance organization which had adopted as its symbol the Liberty Tree. The pine tree was familiar to Colonial New Englanders, made famous by the pine-tree shilling, minted in Boston from 1667 to 1682. It was authorized by the Massachusetts Bay General Court in 1652. Three decades later, the British Crown revoked the Massachusetts Charter. One of the “grievances” cited was minting money with the pine tree struck on coins in place of a sovereign’s portrait, thereby viewed as defiance to British authority.

The 1768 date also coincides with passage of the Townsend Acts which ignited a new wave of colonial resistance.

“Sign of The Pine Tree” carries on in the tradition of 18th century craftsmanship. The pediment and skirt (top and bottom) have been hand-sawn, and hand-cut mortise and tenons used to join the panel board and frames. A copper-based pigment was added to the green paint of the pine tree, as in the original sign. The hanging straps were hand-forged by a blacksmith and attached using clinched nails.

As with the other products on this page, this sign is for sale. Please email or call for details.

