



Introducing the *John Hancock* *Belgian Tripel*

Traditionally, Belgian Tripels are bright yellow to gold in color, with a complex fruity/estery aroma and flavor and a sweet finish. Tripels are high in alcohol making them sipping beers. Our Tripel weighs in at 10.0% (abv) and is dedicated to Founding Father John Hancock.

John Hancock was born on January 23, 1737 in Braintree, Massachusetts, present day the City of Quincy. When John was 7 years old his father died and his mother remarried years later. He was adopted by his paternal uncle, Thomas Hancock, and his wife, Lydia Henchman. The couple did not have children and treated John as their own child. Thomas Hancock was a successful businessman who owned the House of Hancock. He was a wealthy individual, one of the richest in the colonies.

After attending Boston Latin School, graduating in 1750, he was accepted in Harvard College where he graduated in 1754. John gradually took over the family business and in 1764 Thomas Hancock died leaving the House of Hancock to John. At 27 John Hancock became one of the wealthiest men in Massachusetts.

Hancock entered politics in 1765 and devoted the rest of his life to public office until he died on October 8, 1793 at the age of 56. He suffered of poor health during most of his later life. He was a leading opponent of the Stamp Act, the Townsend Acts, and approved the Boston Tea Party, though he did not participate in it personally.

In 1767 the Townshend Acts went into effect in the colonies. The new regulations were oppressive for many colonial merchants and Hancock called for a non-importation agreement and a boycott of non essential British goods. In 1767 Hancock's political views took a turning point when he was targeted by the new Board of Customs Commissioners. They may have suspected him of smuggling or it was retaliation for his political views. His resistance at an attempt to seize a cargo in his brig Lydia without a writ of assistance and the capture of his sloop Liberty, made Hancock a popular hero.

The invasion of British troops led to increased tension between soldiers and citizens which led to the Boston Massacre on March 5, 1770. During this incident five citizens died including a mulatto named Crispus Attucks who is considered to be the first martyr of the American Revolution. After the massacre Hancock met with Governor Thomas Hutchinson demanding the removal of the troops

or risking more violence. The troops were immediately removed to Castle Williams and Hancock's soaring popularity was reflected in his nearly unanimous reelection to the House of Representatives.

The approval of the Tea Act in 1773 brought a renewal of the sense of independence. As a moderator of the Boston Town meeting John Hancock approved of tactics to intimidate agents selected to sell tea in the colonies telling the crowd on the evening of December 16, 1773 "let every man do what is right in his own eyes". That evening the crowd who attended the Boston Town meeting congregated in Boston Harbor and, disguised as American Indians boarded ships containing tea cargo, proceeding to dump 342 chests of tea that belonged to the East India Company into the sea. Hancock did not take part in the Boston Tea Party but approved the action. Furthermore, he was aware that as a public figure he could not publicly commend the action of his fellow citizens.

The revolutionary acts of John Hancock and Samuel Adams made them the most wanted men by British authorities. It was Samuel Adams and John Hancock, as well as the ammunition stockpile in Concord, that the British were coming for on that fateful day of April 19, 1775 when the "Shot heard 'round the world" was fired on the Lexington Green.

The colonial response to the Intolerable Acts of March 1774 was the creation of the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia. In October, the Massachusetts Provincial Congress was created as an autonomous body from Britain and John Hancock was elected President.

Hancock's and Samuel Adams' revolutionary activities made them the most wanted men by British authorities. In April 1775 as they were attending the now independent Provincial Congress in Concord British authorities were actively looking to arrest both men. Feeling it was not safe to return to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia they went into hiding in Hancock's house in Lexington. The night of April 18, 1775 Paul Revere embarked in his famous "Midnight Ride" to warn Hancock and Adams of the plans to arrest them and to seize arsenal from the militia. The Independence War started with the first shots at Lexington and Concord.

On July 4, 1776. Hancock became the first representative to sign the Declaration of Independence. John Hancock died on October 8, 1793 and was buried in Boston, Massachusetts.