

## The Honorable Mayor, Katjana Ballantyne

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## THE CITY OF SOMERVILLE MAYOR KATJANA BALLANTYNE

# PATRIOT'S DAY

### CREDITS

We hope that you enjoy this morning's Patriot's Day Celebration program. This event was developed by the **Somerville Historic Preservation Commission** (J. Brandon Wilson, Coordinator Historic Events & Education), in close cooperation with the **Historic Somerville Subcommittee of the Somerville Museum** (Evelyn Battinelli, Director, Barbara Mangum, President of the Somerville Museum Trustees, Alison Drasner, and Janet Wood-Spagnoli), with the help of **East Somerville Main Streets** (Lindsay Allen, Director, and Board member Annie Silva).

The program would not be possible without the generous support of many other individuals and organizations. We would particularly like to acknowledge the educational material provided by the Paul Revere Memorial Association of Boston, Salem Witch Museum, New England Historical Society, and the Noah Webster House of West Hartford, CT, as well as the clothing loans from the Somerville Museum. We are thankful for the enthusiastic participation of all the volunteers at the games, refreshments, and Local History tables, including Bob & Cynthia Doherty, the Katz-Gritz Family, Dorothy Johnson, Kristen Strezo with Bella and Vincent, Docents Susan Goldin, Mary Mangan, Gerry Pierce, and Kathleen Pondelli, the East Somerville Girls Scouts Troop #67645 reading poems, the SHS Band (Director Tim Moyer), and Jeanine Farley (photographer).

The Committee also appreciates the generous refreshment donations from the **Winter Hill Cafeteria** (cambroses from Karen), the **Foss Park Dunkin Donuts**, **Redbones**, **East Somerville Stop & Shop**, and **When Pigs Fly** bakery.

Finally, special thanks are given to other City staff: Luz Lopez-Rodriguez and Aneesh Sahni in the Mayor's Office, Denise Taylor & all her staff in the Communications Office, the DPW Crew supervised by Matthew Johnson, and to Julia Blake for her wonderful research and updating of this year's Passport.

**For more historic information**, go to the Commission's FB Event page or Instagram handle at <https://instagram.com/preservingsomerville>, their website at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/historic-events-and-education> or call Brandon Wilson, (617) 625-6000, ext. 2532, or remotely at (617) 776-3938.



**MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2023 - 10-11:30AM**

**248<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM**

Of Paul Revere's Ride

From Boston through Somerville to Lexington  
Foss Park on Broadway/Fellsway West



April 17, 2023

To the good people of Somerville, Medford, and beyond,

Thank you for joining us in our annual celebration of Somerville's rich history and our role in the historic ride of Paul Revere. In April 1775, Revere set out from Old North Church in Boston's North End -- traveling through Charlestown, Arlington, Medford and Somerville -- and finished his ride in Lexington. But the legacy of his journey traveled well beyond his route that day. More than two centuries later it remains a national symbol and reminder of the freedoms and liberty we enjoy today. We celebrate Paul Revere's ride each year as a way of remembering our cities' roles in our nation's history and our nation's pursuit of sovereignty.

To Mayor Burke of Medford: From one city, where the first American flag flew over Prospect Hill under General George Washington's command, to another, the fourth oldest settlement in the Commonwealth and a former campground for General Washington, I wish you well and hope you will join me in honoring the patriots who fought for our independence and liberty and justice for all.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne

*Mayor Katjana Ballantyne*

Katjana J. Ballantyne  
Mayor



## COLONIAL BAKING

Most baking would have been done either directly over the fire or just in front of the hearth. Some of the flavors for colonial baking came from molasses, lemons, almonds, and coconuts. Cookies did not make an appearance until the late 1700s, as only air and egg whites were available to help sweet snack items to rise. While yeast was available to aid in the rising of bread, this was not a good flavor to add to cookies.

Although Paul Revere is most famous for his ride on horseback to Lexington, he also made several longer rides to New York City and Philadelphia. On those trips, Revere undoubtedly carried snacks in his saddlebags. Try making this recipe for parched corn!

### A COLONIAL SNACK: PARCHED CORN

Parched corn was eaten regularly by the Native American warriors and hunters as a high-energy snack long before European explorers and was a typical food or treat for the colonists as well. Although this recipe may not be completely aligned with Shape Up Somerville's nutritional guidelines, it is very filling!

#### **Ingredients**

Dried corn

1 tablespoon oil or butter

Any of the following toppings for your corn:

- Molasses
- Brown sugar
- Maple syrup
- Shredded cheese
- Dried fruit (apples work well)
- Cooked meat diced up
- Red pepper flakes

#### **Directions:**

1. Dry your corn. To dry corn on the cob, you can hang it in a dry place for two to three weeks and then remove the kernels from the cob. Or, you can buy frozen corn and dry it by heating it in the oven at 150 degrees for two to three hours.
2. Heat the oil or butter in a skillet over medium heat. Add enough corn kernels to cover the bottom of your pan.
3. Cook the corn, occasionally shaking the skillet, until a few of the kernels pop like popcorn and the rest of the kernels start to brown and puff up.
4. Remove from heat. Drain the corn on a paper towel and add any desired toppings. Have fun and feel free to be creative!

Adapted from <http://www.utahpeppers.com/2009/10/survival-food-how-to-make-parched-corn/>



**10:00 am** Colonial Music at Foss Park – SHS Band, Director Tim Moyer

**~10:45 am** Welcoming Remarks – J. Brandon Wilson, Event Coordinator

**Introduction of Invited Guests and Event Organizers:**

Special Guests: Mayor Emeritus Eugene Brune, former Mayor Dorothy Kelly Gay and former Alderman-At-Lge Jack Connolly.

Organizers include: J. Brandon Wilson, Historic Events & Education Coordinator for the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission; Somerville Museum and its Local History Subcommittee; and East Somerville Main Streets.

**Proclamation from Governor Maura Healey**

Read by Jake Wilson, Councilor at Large.

**Reading of poems: “The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere”** read by Saumika Gawande (4<sup>th</sup> grade, Prospect Hill Academy), and Leila and her sister Keerin Bola (3<sup>rd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> grades at the Kennedy School); **“The House by the Side of the Road”** and **“The Midnight Ride of Williams Dawes”** read by Ruthanna Kern (SHS '24).

**Somerville High School Band** playing early American music: Boston Harbor (unknown composer), Chester (composer William Billings), and Yankee Doodle (composer Richard Shuckburgh) with all arranged by Band Director Tim Moyer.

**Closing Remarks**



**10:00-11:30 am Children’s Colonial Games** for local school children.

Games led by event organizers and community volunteers. All encouraged to join in the game stations, enjoy the period refreshments, and visit the local history and souvenir tables.

**Reception of Paul Revere when he arrives on horseback.**

City officials greet Paul Revere with Proclamation from his Excellency, Governor Maura Healey. Mayor Ballantyne sends her greetings via Paul Revere to Medford Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn.

**Historical Context of Paul Revere’s Ride**

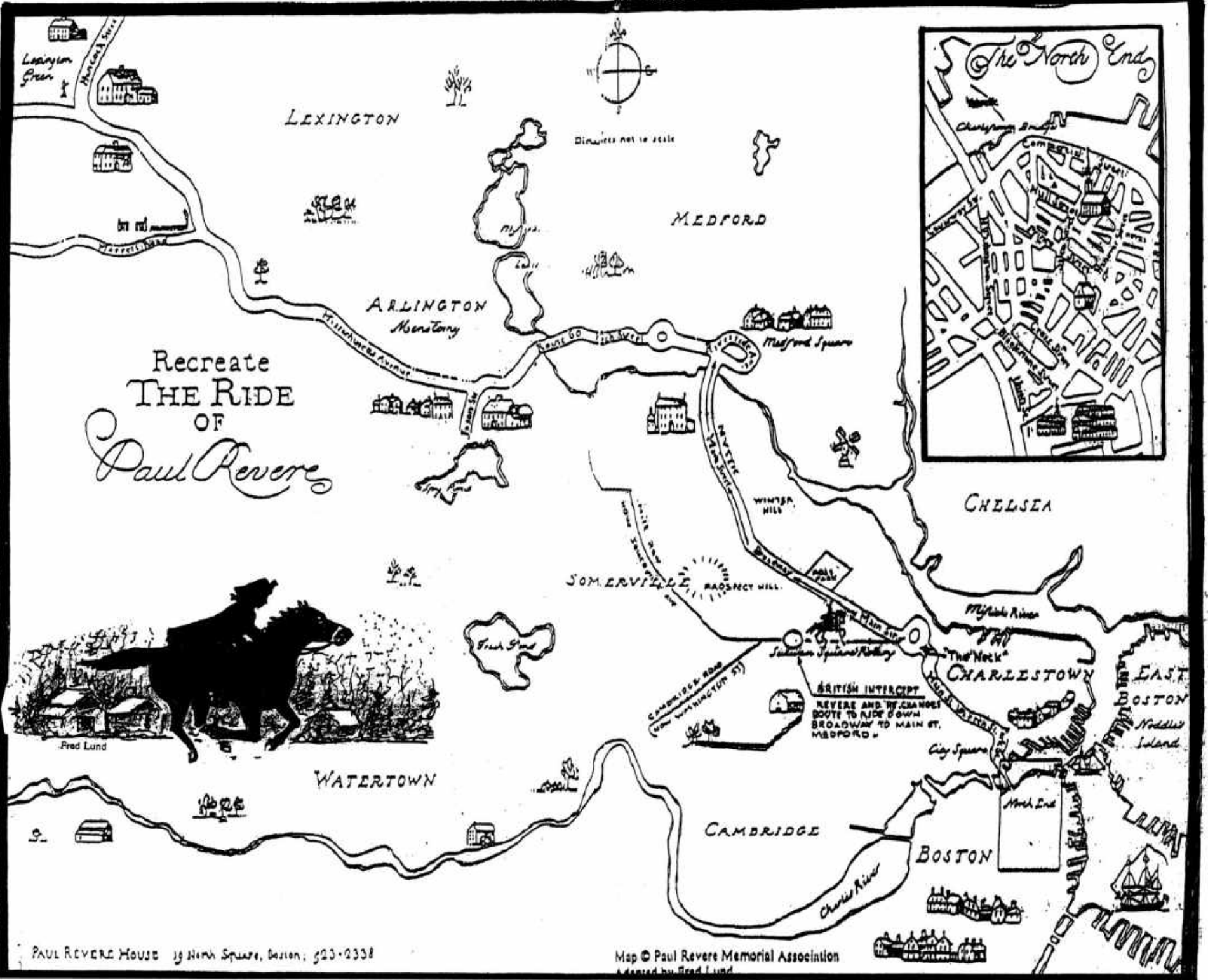
The fetters of England’s rule were gradually tightening around the New England men and women who aspired to be absolutely free, and the treatment by King George and his ministers grew continually more autocratic and oppressive. In 1774 a long series of restrictions on the part of the British Government culminated in the enactment of the Boston Port Bill, which placed a disastrous embargo on Boston and Charlestown, amounting to a complete blockade of the port upon which the welfare of the people depended.

The British sent over strong military and naval forces to intimidate the colonists. On Somerville soil, one of the first hostile acts on the part of the British occurred. On September 1, 1774, the British came up the Mystic River from Boston, landed at Ten Hills Farm, crossed Broadway, and went on to the Powder House, where they took 250 barrels of powder belonging to towns in the vicinity. From there the British went to Cambridge and seized the cannon that they found on the Common. The loss of the powder was serious and the Colonists were alarmed. The next day hundreds of minutemen were marching toward Boston from all directions. Had further seizures been attempted, an army of many thousands would have assembled to oppose them.

After the British raid on the Powder House and Cambridge Common, the colonists removed their remaining guns and war materials to Concord and other distant towns. English officers in disguise, however, soon discovered the hiding places, so that the patriots were in constant suspense, feeling that other seizures would be attempted. Watch was kept on all ways out of Boston by land or by water, so as to detect instantly any movement of the King’s troops, to promptly alarm the country, and to call together the minutemen. Thirty men organized a company and took turns, “two and two”, at this watch. One of these men was Paul Revere.

Several days before the march to Concord, the preparations observed aboard the transports and other boats in the harbor caused suspicion that some formidable expedition was intended. “The town watches at Boston, Charlestown, and Cambridge, were ordered to look well to the landing places.” About this time a lady in Boston sent word to Samuel Adams and John Hancock, who were at Lexington, that within a few days, troops would leave the town, but that their destination was unknown. On the 18<sup>th</sup> of April, 1775, Dr. Warren learned that their object was to capture Adams and Hancock. At once he sent William Dawes, by way of Roxbury, and Paul Revere by way of Charlestown to Lexington. Revere arranged for signals to be displayed from the steeple of the North Church – two lanterns if the British went by water, one if by land. He had already displayed a lantern from Christ’s Church to warn Charlestown that the troops had begun their march. He rowed across the river, past the British man-of-war “Somerset” and only a few minutes before her sentinels were ordered to stop all boats! He landed in Charlestown where a good horse awaited him. He set out on his midnight errand.

Soon after passing Charlestown Neck Revere saw, beneath a tree, two horsemen whom he discovered to be British officers. One tried to get ahead of him, and the other to overtake him. He turned his horse quickly and galloped towards Charlestown Neck, escaping by way of Broadway. The officer who followed, endeavoring to cut him off, found himself in a clay pit, and Revere was able to elude him. He continued through Somerville, over Broadway and Main Street, to the present-day towns of Medford and Arlington. It is also said that on his ride, Revere galloped over to Ten Hills Farm where he signaled, from a barn, back to Charlestown.



Recreate  
THE RIDE  
OF  
*Paul Revere*



PAUL REVERE HOUSE 19 North Square, Boston; 623-2338

Map © Paul Revere Memorial Association  
Adapted by Fred Lund