

Please Join Us!

MERIAM'S CORNER OBSERVANCE

Saturday, April 6, 2019

Minute Man National Historical Park

Concord, Massachusetts

For over two decades, members of the Mer(r)iam family from across North America have been meeting each spring to celebrate our storied family's role in America's birth and development, and to further efforts to rehabilitate the historic family home at Meriam's Corner, built in or about 1705. These annual gatherings have become a wonderful way to experience our national and personal history while getting to meet new "cousins" and reconnect with family and friends.

MERIAM'S CORNER AND THE MERIAM HOMESTEAD

The homestead at Meriam's Corner is one of the oldest surviving structures in the area. Our family built this home in about 1705 after emigrating from England to America, and you can still see the foundations of an even older family house on the grounds, outlined with marker stones purchased thanks to the generosity of those who have participated in this effort. On the 19th of April 1775, it was the scene of the first heavy fighting on the British retreat back to Boston after the skirmishes at Lexington and Concord. In recognition of its historical significance, the National Park Service purchased the Corner to become a part of Minute Man National Historical Park and it now forms the western anchor of the Battle Road Trail, a five-mile interpretive trail along which the landscape is being restored to its 18th century appearance.

Although the Meriam house was structurally sound, when the project began the exterior finish and the interior were badly deteriorated. In the year 2000, we officially launched a fundraising campaign, the Campaign for Meriam's Corner, to rehabilitate it and to support interpretive programs and its ongoing maintenance. A Meriam's Corner fund has been established through the nonprofit Friends of Minute Man National Park, which supports the work of the Park, so that donations are now tax-deductible.

This is a public-private partnership. The Park won a \$1.7 million grant supporting rehabilitation of the exterior of the Meriam's Corner farmhouse and six other historic houses within the Park. The Campaign, now entering its 19th year, has asked family and friends for donations to continue that work to refinish the interior. Our success is now finally visible. With funds raised so far, the Campaign made donations to the Park in 2003 for exterior and in 2005 for interior rehabilitation, window treatments, and carpeting; and in 2008-09 the site of the even earlier (*ca.* 1663) Josiah Meriam house on the grounds was delineated with an engraved marker

and corner stones. During recent years extensive further interior work and refinishing has been done. For the past five summers and early autumns, the Corner has been opened to visitors each weekend—a milestone in our effort.

The Meriam House has been under a large preservation project funded by the NPS which started two years ago (post Patriot's Day) and is continuing into this year. At the moment, it is hoped that the house will be open for the family as in the past, but certain portions of the house may be roped off while preservation work takes place in those rooms. Recently, certain floor boards had been removed while sill and joist repair work was underway. Unfortunately, as the initial preservation work began, large infestations of carpenter ants/termites were discovered and the house has also been treated for that. More private donations to complete this work were made last year and greatly appreciated. Minute Man National Historical Park then requested more NPS project funding. Visitors will definitely notice a significant improvement in interior/exterior areas of the house where work is already completed.

Superintendent BJ Dunn is pleased to report that the major preservation project at the Meriam House from the past two years is now substantially complete. That work included the windows, exterior wall repair and repainting, and of course the interior structural member repairs that were needed once the extent of the termite and carpenter ant damage was discovered. BJ says: “Thank you to Meriam family members for funds towards that effort!”

New this year is that Minute Man NHP has secured NPS fiscal year 2019 project dollars (\$289,625) to replace the roof. Note that this roof work has been deferred a couple times, one year so that the funds could be redirected towards the other project underway as described above, and a second time when the bid came in way over the government estimate for the work. The scope of work package for replacing the roof is due to the Park’s contracting office by April 1 and they hope to have the contract awarded by early summer and work underway by late summer/early fall.

Phew! What good news!

Every April, the Town of Concord organizes a Meriam’s Corner Observance and parade, with marchers in Revolutionary costumes, as part of Concord’s and the Park’s observance of the battle. This year, the date is Saturday, April 6th, one week before Patriot’s Day weekend. Family members and Park representatives will meet to discuss the Campaign and socialize over a late lunch at the Noah Brooks Tavern in the Park, and the House will be open for tours. All Merriams and Meriams and those who affiliate with us are invited to the Observance at 1:00 pm. (The parade forms up at 12:30 pm, and you are invited to march! It is about half a mile, and Colonial attire is not required.) After the parade and celebration we will meet up at the historic Brooks Tavern for a late lunch and revelry. At 2:30 PM or soon thereafter, Superintendent BJ Dunn and others from the Park will join us and give us a briefing on the Meriam House project as we enjoy a meal together.

Please join us! A detailed listing of events is below and more information will be available on the Park’s own website about area events.

There are a number of hotels and inns in the area.

Best Western, 740 Elm Street, Concord 978-369-6100

www.bestwesternmassachusetts.com

Concord's Colonial Inn, 48 Monument Square, Concord 800-370-9200

www.concordscolonialinn.com

Hawthorne In, 462 Lexington Road, Concord (978) 369-5610

<http://www.hawthorneinnconcord.com>

The North Bridge Inn (978) 371-0014 www.northbridgeinn.com

Residence Inn Concord, 320 Baker Lane, Concord 978-341-0003

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/bosrd-residence-inn-boston-concord/>

Aloft Lexington, 727 Marrett Road – A, Lexington (781) 761-1700

www.aloftlexington.com

Bed and Breakfasts <http://www.bedandbreakfast.com/concord-massachusetts.html>

Check out www.AirBnB.com

A few final thoughts....

Please note that **two separate forms** are enclosed – one to register for our lunch and the other to send a contribution. They go to separate addresses!

Remember that this is New England, and **the weather is notoriously unpredictable**. Literally *anything* is possible. In years past we have enjoyed warm sun, rain, and snow (and more snow!) - - sometimes all on the same day! If you are coming from a distance, check the forecast before setting out, and be prepared. Our events – like the Revolution they commemorate – are not weather-dependent and we go forward, rain or shine!

Spread the word to any family and friends we haven't reached, and invite them to come along! The gathering of Merriams and Meriams from around the world sends a strong signal to the Park that there is a constituency and support for the Corner, and encourages and thanks them in their commitment to this work. We are not doing any mailing this year.

Update your information! When you complete the enclosed registration form, please give us as much information about how to reach you as you can and even if you cannot join us this year, send us the form by email or regular mail with your updated information.

Make a donation to continue the work of restoring and preserving our family and national heritage. Consider honoring a family member or ancestor by contributing to this cause. A

contribution form is enclosed for your convenience, and contributions of any amount are gratefully accepted. Contributions should be made to the Friends of Minute Man Park with a notation that the contribution is for the Campaign for Meriam's Corner. The Friends is a 501(c)(3) organization and contributions are tax deductible. Visit the website at <http://www.friendsofminuteman.org/aboutus.htm>

For more information, please contact me, Dwight Merriam, at dwightmerriam@gmail.com or call 860-651-7077 or 860-463-7233.

Visit our family genealogy website and learn more at www.merriamfamilytree.org .
Please join the **family email list**: Merriam-Descendants-Subscribe@yahoogroups.com – we promise, we won't email all that often!

A PART OF AMERICAN HISTORY – A PART OF OUR HISTORY!

Meriam's Corner Gathering Schedule

Saturday, April 6, 2018

All Day Explore the Park and See the Progress at Meriam's Corner

Minute Man National Historical Park is a living monument to our nation's birth. Even if you have attended the gathering before, take this opportunity to explore the Park again! A Park map is available on line at: www.nps.gov/mima .

Tour the House. The Meriam House is scheduled to be open to the public for tours from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. 737 Lexington Road, Concord.

Walk the Trail. The Battle Road Trail starts at Meriam's Corner and extends 5 miles east to Lexington, with other historic houses and landscapes being returned to their 1775 appearance.

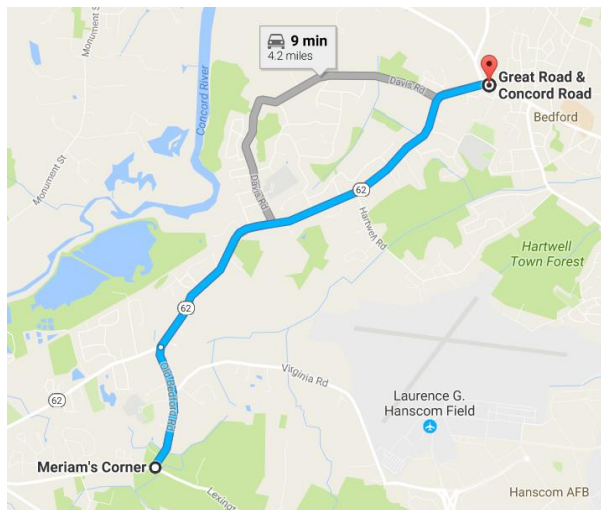
See the Visitor Center. The Main Visitor Center features a variety of exhibits, including a very entertaining brief multimedia show about the events of April 19, 1775, including mention of our own Meriam's Corner and the Brooks Tavern. The Center is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and the free show is run every 30 minutes.

10:30 a.m. Bedford Pole Capping

Liberty Pole Capping ceremony consisting of colonial troops from throughout New England parading from Bedford Common to Wilson Park. A Bedford Minuteman will climb the pole and, in defiance of King George, place a red cap over the top. Wilson Park, Bedford, about 3.5 miles from Meriam's Corner, Wilson Park is at the intersection of Concord Road and Great Road. (just a suggestion for something to do if you have the time...).

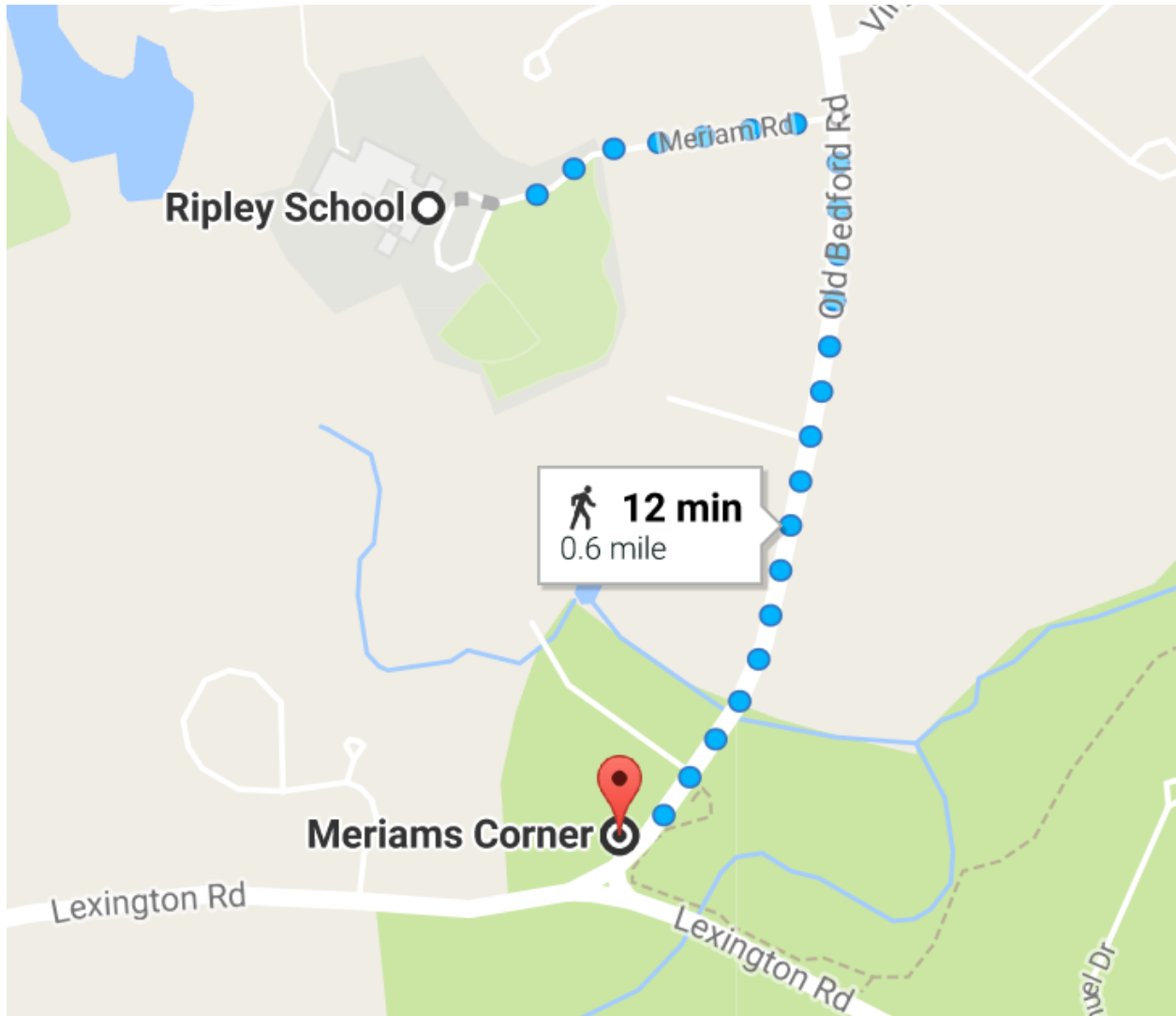
<http://www.bedfordminutemancompany.org/pole-capping/>

Here's a map to the Pole Capping:



12:15 p.m. Prepare for the Parade and Observance

Proceed by car to the Ripley School on Meriam Street, where you can park and line up for the parade behind the Mer(r)iam family banner. If you are not able to join the parade, you may park at the NPS Willow Pond parking area east of the Corner on Route 2A. You are encouraged to car pool from the Brooks Tavern or the Visitor Center (GPS address is 3113 Marrett Road, Lexington, MA) as the Willow Pond lot has limited parking available. The parade steps off at 12:45 for the short walk to Meriam’s Corner. Here’s a map:



1:00 p.m. Meriam’s Corner Observance

Participants include representatives of the Town of Concord, the National Park Service, local marching bands, and historical re-enactment groups including the Concord Militia and the Bedford Regiment. The family marches in a special section of the parade behind a Mer(r)iam family banner. Period costumes are welcome, but certainly not required – feel free to come as

you are! More information at <https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/event-details.htm?id=8578D079-155D-451F-67DD6A864D6806DC>



Meriam's Corner Exercise

2:30 p.m. Merriment with the Mer(r)iams

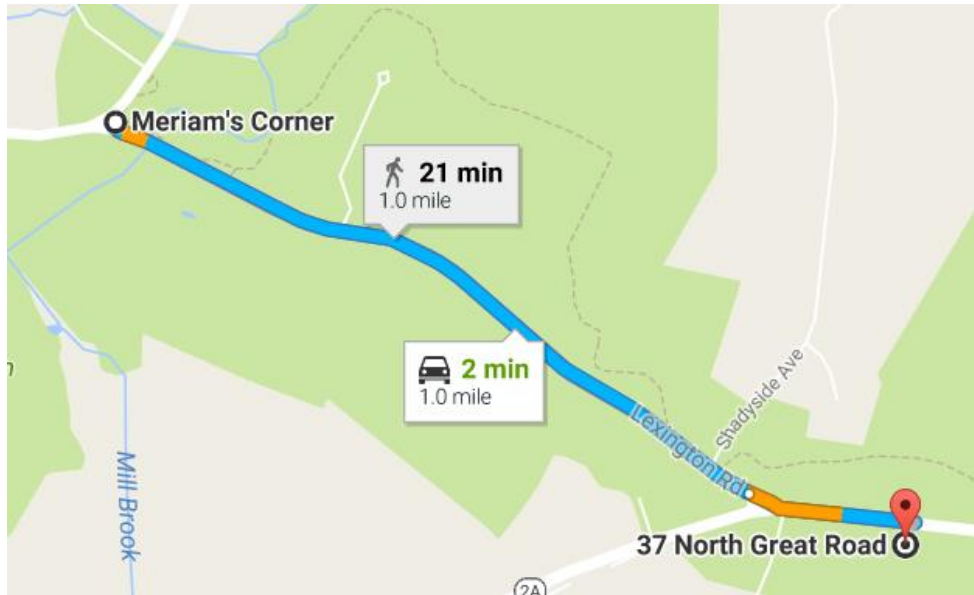
Join us for an always lively and entertaining late lunch with your distant cousins.

Noah Brooks Tavern, Lincoln.

Yellow house on Route 2A about 1 mile east of Meriam's Corner.

37 North Great Road, Lincoln. 42.452590, -71.306993





3:00 p.m. Paul Revere Capture Ceremony
Revere capture site, Route 2A, Lincoln

Email Dwight Merriam at dwightmerriam@gmail.com with any questions!

CAMPAIGN FOR MERIAM'S CORNER CONTRIBUTION FORM

Please note: There are TWO separate forms — this one to make a contribution to the Campaign and the other to register for the Observance and sign up for the lunch. Government rules require keeping these two payments separate. They go to two different addresses, and checks should be made out to different groups. Thanks for understanding.

I am enclosing a check for \$_____ as a contribution to the Meriam's Corner Fund. Make checks payable to: **Friends of Minute Man Park**, with "Meriam's Corner Fund" on the memo line.

Please use your complete name with middle names or at least initials – a lot of us Merriam "cousins" have similar names!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTION ALONG WITH THIS FORM DIRECTLY TO:

**Friends of Minute Man Park
174 Liberty Street
Concord, MA 01742**

EVENT RESERVATION FORM

DEADLINE: (We're family; we don't need any deadlines...)

Please note: There are TWO separate forms -- this one for the lunch, the other to make a contribution to the Campaign. They go to two different addresses, and checks should be made out to different groups. Thanks for understanding.

Yes!!!! We'll be there! I will attend the lunch.

2:30 p.m. Lunch at Noah Brooks Tavern **\$25 per adult**
[any excess funds go to the work on the Meriam House]

This year, to make things a little easier for all concerned, it is a BYOB event, so please bring "adult beverages" for yourself and to share. Water and soda will be provided.

The simple way to reply is just a short email to me at dwightmerriam@gmail.com with the names of guests.
No need to send money – just bring it with you!
Cash or check.

If you wish to reply by mail, use this form:

_____ Adults _____ Children (under 12 free)

We need an accurate head count to order the food, so please let us know who is coming!
Vegetarian options will be available (if requested).

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Guest Names: _____

- Check payable to “Dwight Merriam” enclosed.
- I will bring check or cash and pay at the luncheon.

Return this form (or just an email with the essential information) to:

Dwight Merriam
80 Latimer Lane
Weatogue, CT 06089

By mail or by email [dwightmerriam@gmail.com](mailto:dwrightmerriam@gmail.com)