



The Sign at Nottingham Square

Nottingham Alarm March April 23

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On the morning of Saturday, April 23, 2022, as one of jewels in 300th Anniversary crown of events, folks will gather at Nottingham Square for the Nottingham Alarm March. This is commemorate and participate in the town's famous Revolutionary War March to Medford on April 20, 1775.

To appreciate the Alarm March, let us first look at the actual historical event itself and then see how it will be observed on Saturday, April 23, 2022. On April 19, 1775, following the famous ride of Paul Revere proclaiming "The Regulars were coming", there occurred the Battles of Lexington and Concord. This was the initial skirmish between British regulars and American militias and Minutemen that marked the beginning of the American Revolution. Also designated as *the shot heard around the world*. Nottingham's response was chronicled by Leon Oscar Williams in his book A New Hampshire Hilltop. "It was the morning after Lexington that the grim tidings reach Piscataqua.. For many it was a call to arms...At once men began to drift eagerly toward the rendezvous:... At four o' clock that afternoon they were on the way to Boston. To Epping in an hour; through Kingston part of the way on a dog trot, To Haverhill in less than three...They sup at Andover, and then through the long night under the stars, they beat out to Medford... they had covered sixty miles in twelve hours".

Depending on the source, between about 60 and 100 men marched to initially Medford. Later that night they moved their quarters in Cambridge. The leadership included both Joseph Cilley and Dr, Henry Dearborn, Since th Battles of Lexington and Concord were over, some of the men returned home and others stayed. Later they participated in the Battle of Bunker Hill June 17, 1775.



From left to right Bob Davidson, Bob Mackey, Art Walker and Bruce Batten, members of the First New Hampshire Regiment, in Civilian/Militia attire at The 58th Annual Bedford MA Pole Capping, April 9th. Photograph by Bob Davidson.

Here is what will be happening on [Nottingham Alarm March](#) on Saturday, April 23, 2022 at Nottingham Square. From 9 to 10 AM, folks will gather the Minuteman Statue for a living history experience. This is a free event. They then and there will have an opportunity to meet and ask questions with an assembled group of Revolutionary War reenactors. Many of the reenactors will be members of the [First New Hampshire Regiment](#). At 10 AM the reenactment really starts with one or two horseback riders coming up Ledge Farm road sounding the alarm to the militia and townspeople that the Battles of Lexington and Concord has occurred. In response, by about 10:30 AM, those assembled will march of 2 miles down the Ledge Farm road to the Nottingham/Epping line. Just before the gathered group actually march, some of the reenactors will fire their muskets. All the attendees are invited to march along with reenactors.

By about 12:00 - 12:30 PM, when the march ends at the Epping border and people will be bussed back to Nottingham Square. From 12:30 - 1:00 PM, there will be Closing Ceremonies. The reenactors will first go to the Joseph Cilley Burial Ground and fire a salute at General Cilley's grave. Then, they will walk to the Minuteman statue with one of its four sides inscribed with General Dearborn's name and fire another volley.

Related to this 300th event, Nottingham's Blaisdell Memorial Library will have Terry Nelson, the author of [The Hidden History of the New Hampshire Seacoast](#) lead a discussion about General Henry Dearborn on Thursday, May 10, 2022 at 6:30 PM.