

LOST MASSACHUSETTS PRESENTS

# LOST HISTORY OF MECHANIC STREET



# WHAT IS MECHANIC STREET?

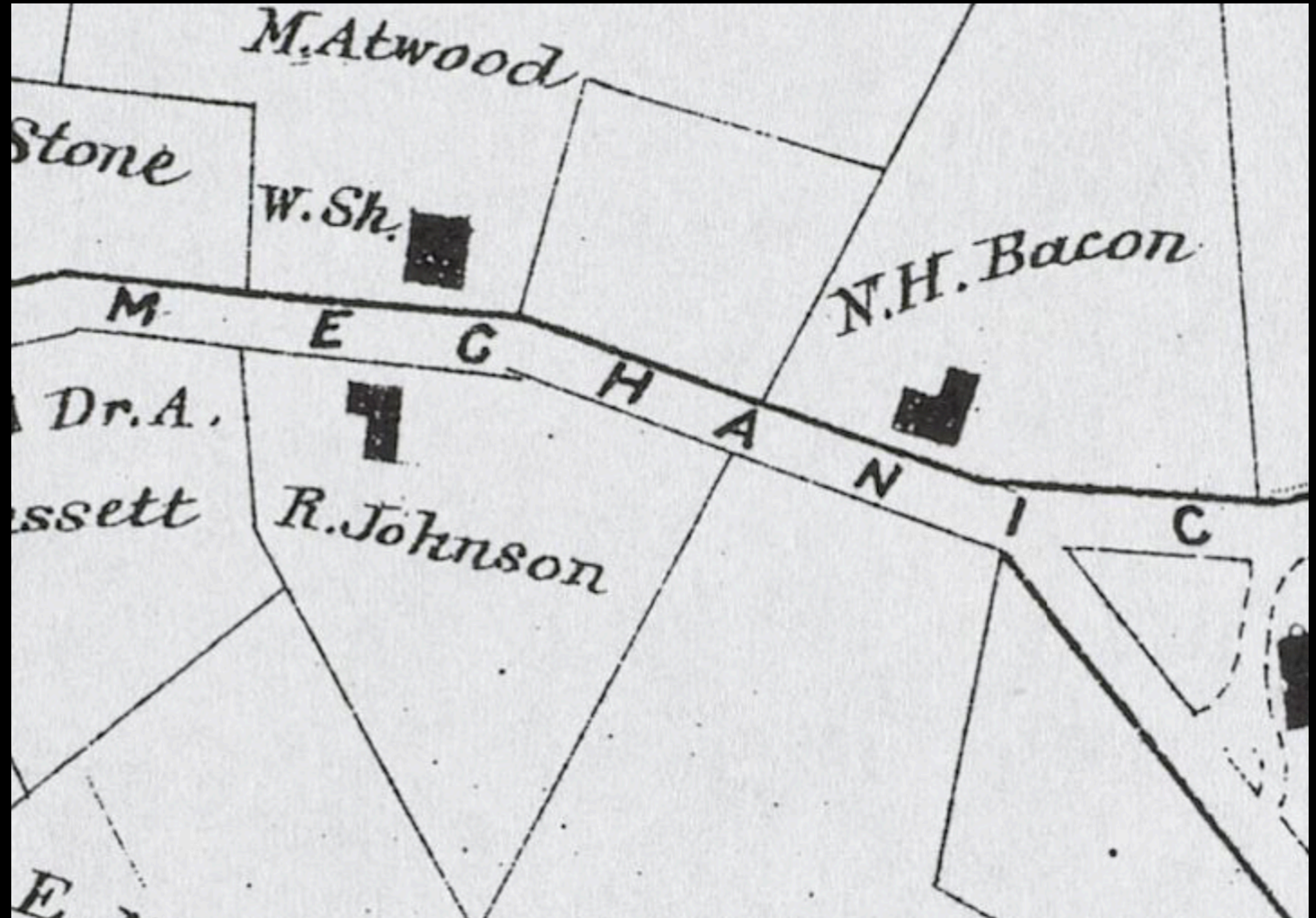
- Why "Mechanic"?
- Street names typically have descriptive or memorial names
- Church, Library, School, Bridge, River, Water, etc. all have obvious meanings
- Washington, Hancock, Kennedy, etc. are named for specific people
- Streets are commissioned and maintained with public interest





# WHY MECHANIC?

- 64 Towns in Massachusetts have a Mechanic Street
- Most make T junction with Main
- The name has nothing to do with garages or automobiles and precedes common cars
- Their configurations have common features suggesting purpose and symbolism





# Natick

Britto Auto Body  
Auto repair shop

Dental  
ory, Inc



Mechanic St

N Main St



Boston Mass Car

OJRT Photography



Associated



# Leicester

Main St

Morin Funeral Home

Mechanic St

Church

9



&S CUSTOM  
KITCHENS



8



Forever Yoga

Whitcomb  
Travel Services



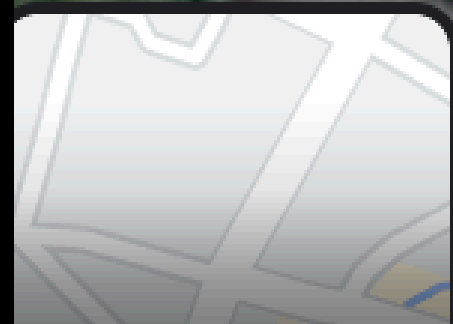
Main St

Leominster



Bank of Am  
Drive-thru

Mechanic St





ansion



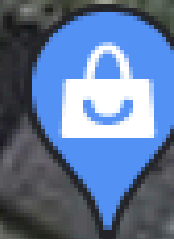
Mechanic St

2A



Orange

R&M Auto Sal  
Car dealer



E Main St

Bacon St





# Westfield



Burger King



Mechanic St

Mechanic St

Cherry St

Cherry St

Main St

Bay  
Car

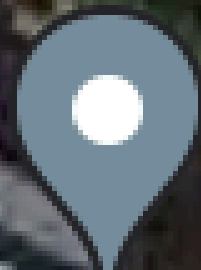
64

64 68

70



Pyne Bette



Main St

West Newbury

Mechanic St

Newell Farm D







# WHAT CAN BE FOUND AT MECHANIC STREET?

- Railroads
- Factories
- War Memorials
- Cemeteries
- Post Offices
- Masonic Halls





# MECHANIC ST SHELBRURNE FALLS

- Leads to Arms Cemetery
- Street ends at grave of Maj. Ira Arms (1783 - 1859)
- Near old railroad and masonic hall





# MECHANIC ST. ATHOL, MA.

- Ends in Cavalry Cemetery
- One or many Mechanic Streets that appears to vanish in the “great beyond”



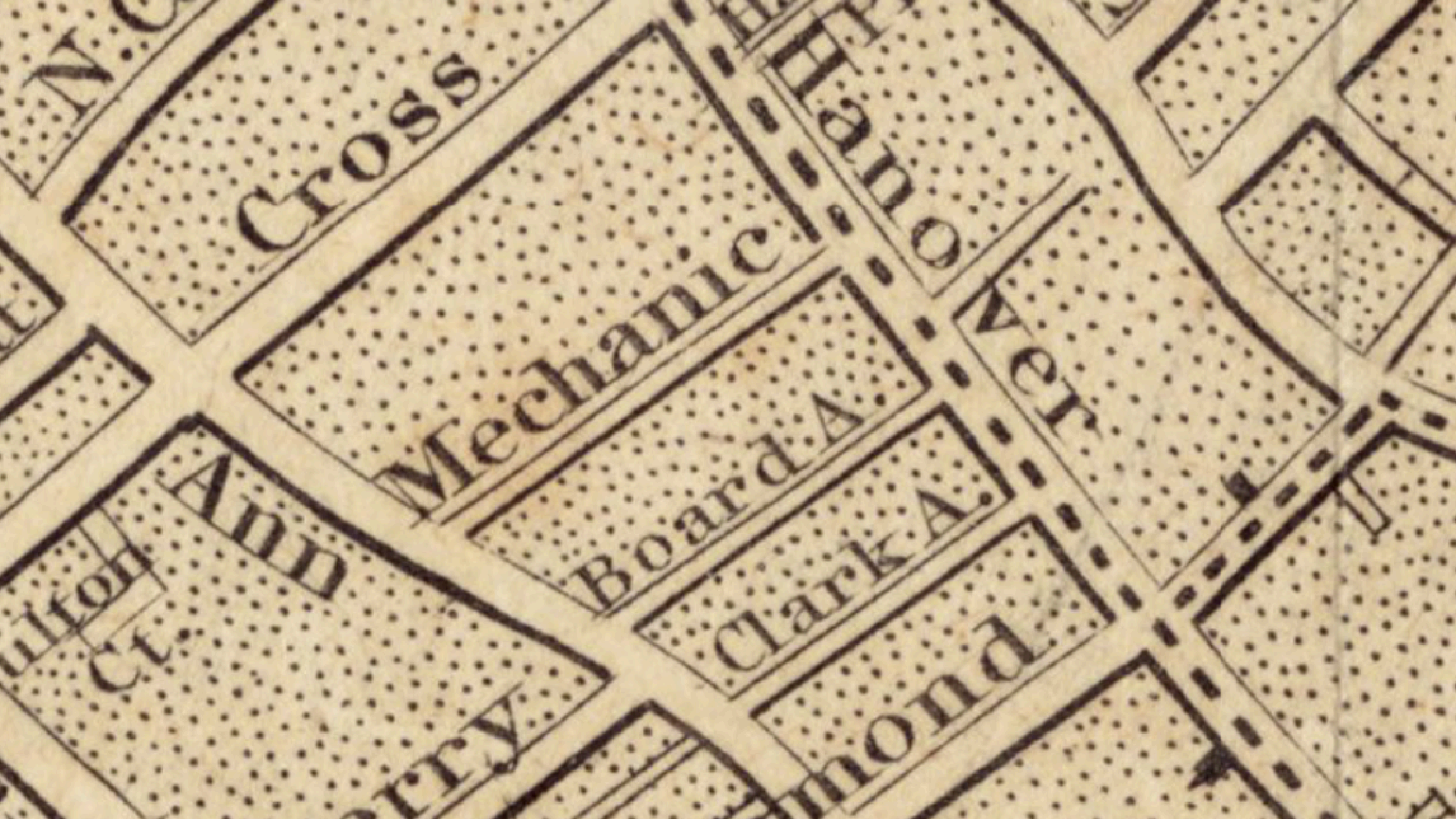


# FIRST MECHANIC STREET - BOSTON

- North End, near Paul Revere's house
- Cir. Paul Revere's death in 1818 name Mechanic Street begins to appear on maps
- Over 70 Mechanic Sts. appear in Mass (and other states) in the following decades
- *Mechanic* has particular meaning to Revere

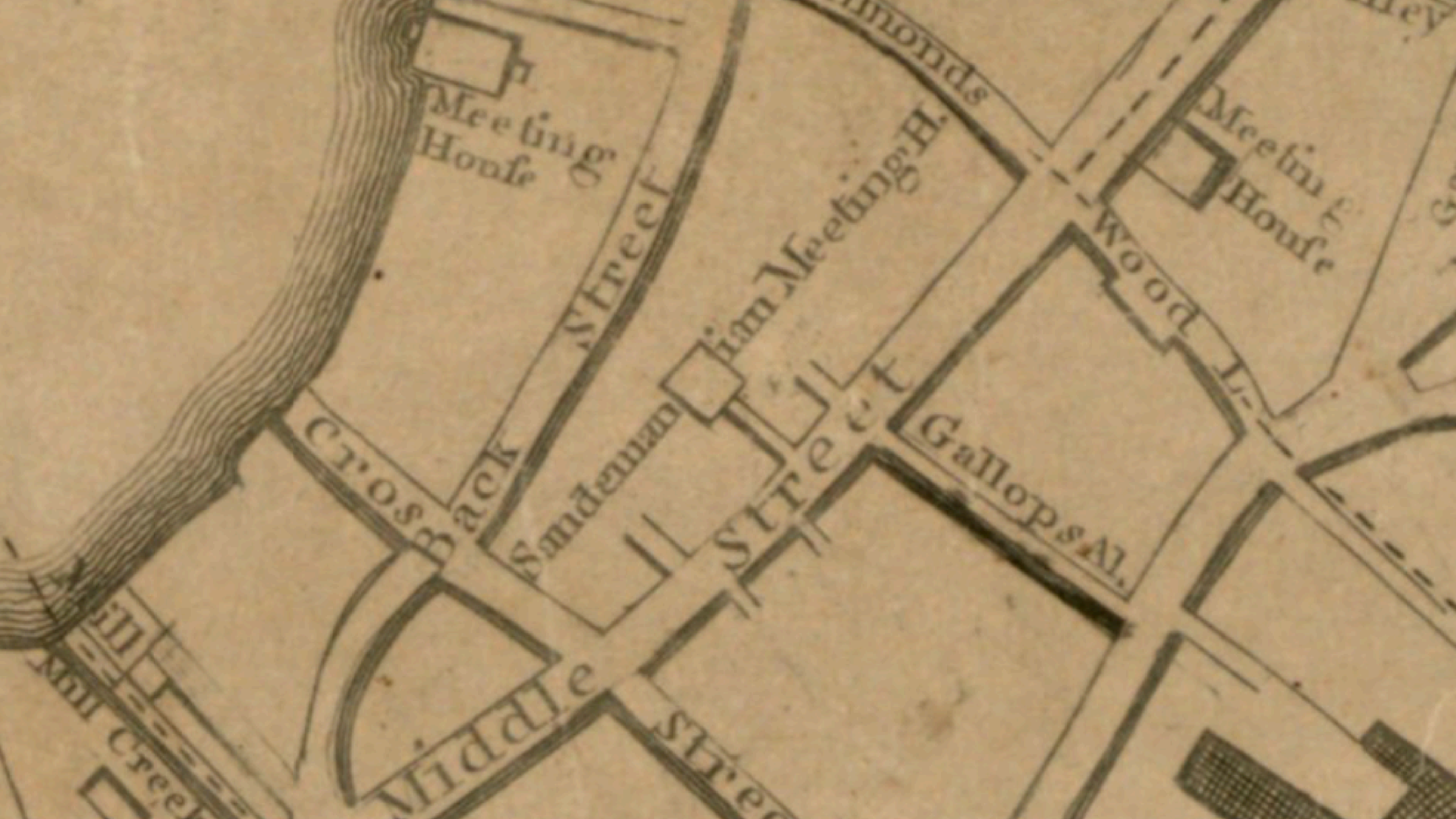






Historical Society, January 1, 1798, "In the fall of 1774 and winter of 1775 I was one of upwards of thirty, chiefly mechanics, who formed themselves into a company for the purpose of watching the movements of the British soldiers and gaining every intelligence of the movements of the Tories. We held our meetings at the Green Dragon Tavern." He then relates the circumstances of his famous ride. "I went to the north end of the town where





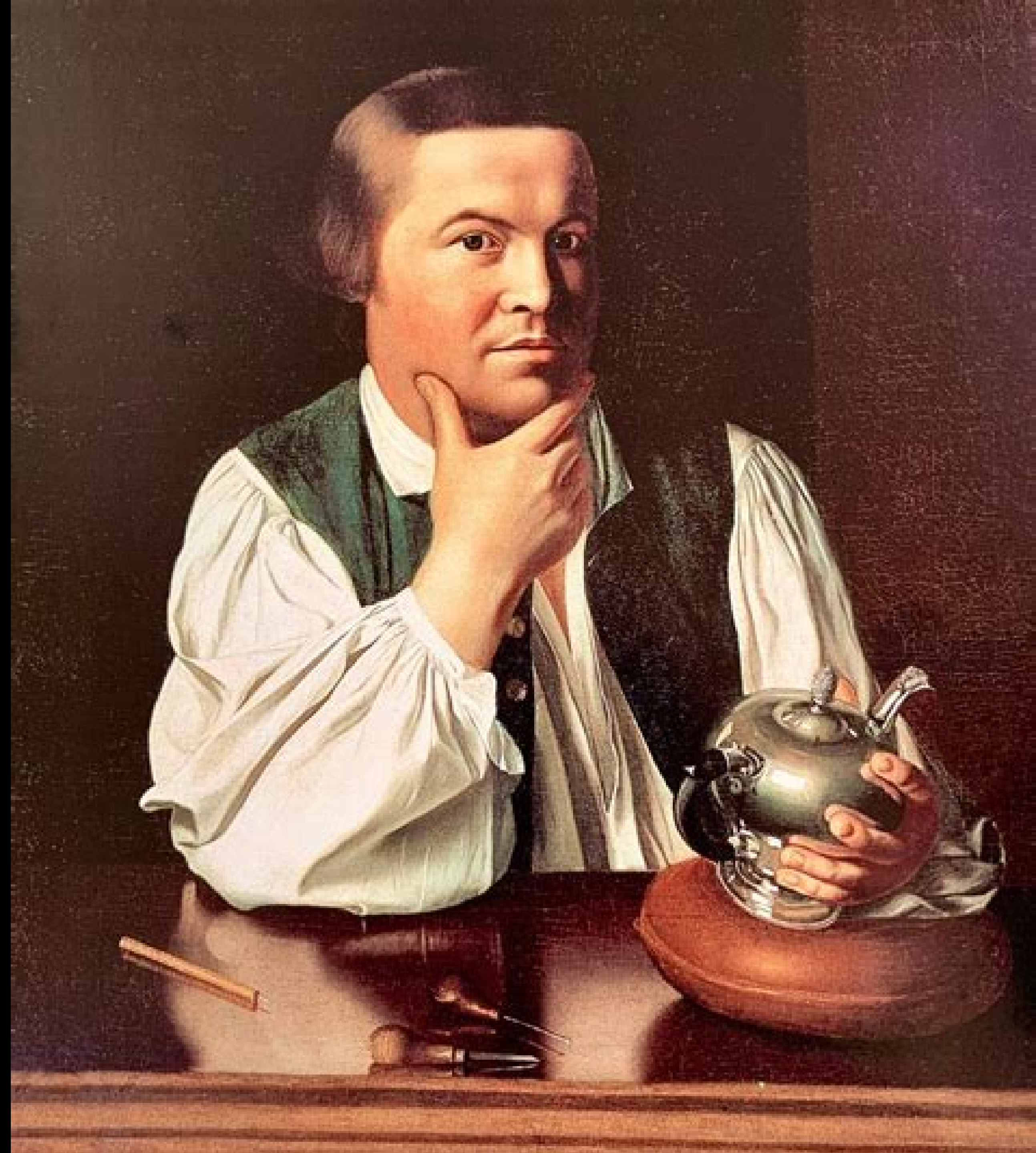
1754-77.

Robert Sandeman, a Scotchman, arrived in Boston October 18, 1764. On the next Sunday he conducted religious services in Mason's Hall, in the Green Dragon Inn in Union Street, and here the congregation continued to hold services until they built a small wooden church at the foot of a lane leading to the mill pond between the two Baptist churches, on Salem Street. April 4, 1773, a fire destroyed their building and they were given the use of the North Latin schoolhouse for a time. A new house was built on the west side of Hanover Street up a passage between Cross and Parmenter Streets, but the society soon died out. The house was let and the meetings dissolved in 1823. October 5, 1785, the schoolhouse lately improved by Mr. Dupe, by the name of the Sandemans Meeting House, was hired by the Town for Master Cheney and called the Middle Street Writing School.



# NEW IDEAS

- Revere was an emerging middle class artisan
- Revere not satisfied with his family church or the Church of England
- Sandeman was excommunicated for preaching the *separation of church and state*.
- Beyond politics, Boston patriots wanted to open public museums, music halls, libraries and schools for ordinary citizens





# MECHANIC STREET, QUINCY, MA.

- Walking museum of the Revolution
- Monument to Paul Revere's grandson
- Mechanic Society Headquarters nearby

## SITE OF BRACKETT'S TAVERN LIBERTY TREE

SUNDAY. MAY 4TH. 1766

"I saw for the first Time, a likely young Button Wood Tree, lately planted, on the Triangle made by the Three Roads, by the House of Mr. James Brackett. The Tree is well set and well guarded and has on it, an Inscription 'The Tree of Liberty,' and 'cursed is he, who cutts this Tree.'"

John Adams, Diary.

