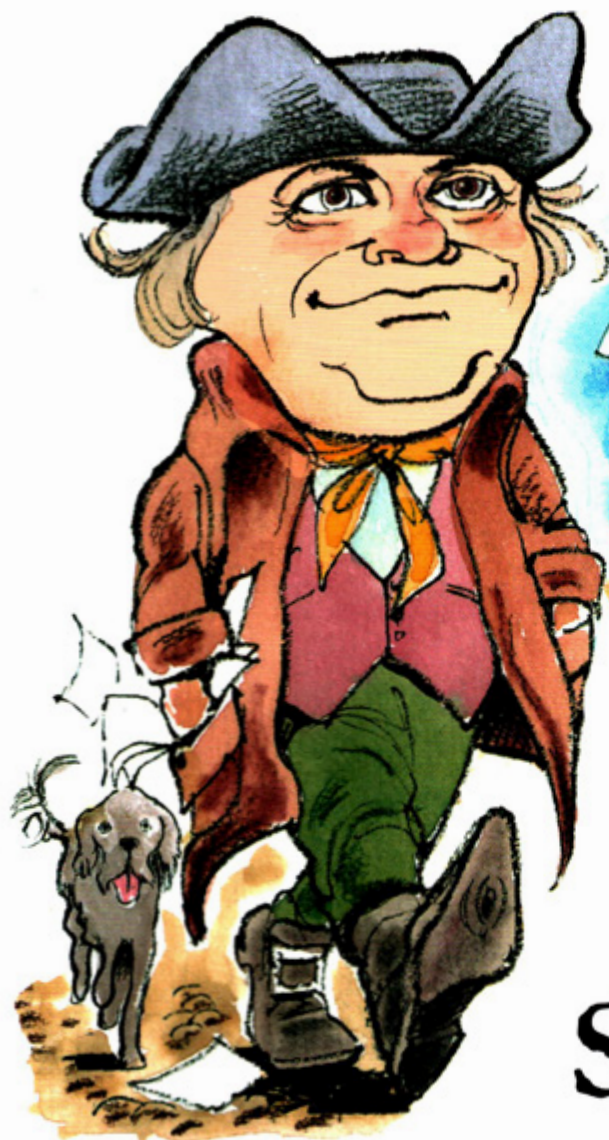




★ Bringing History to Life ★



Why don't you
get a horse,
Sam Adams?

NEWBERY HONOR-WINNING AUTHOR

JEAN FRITZ

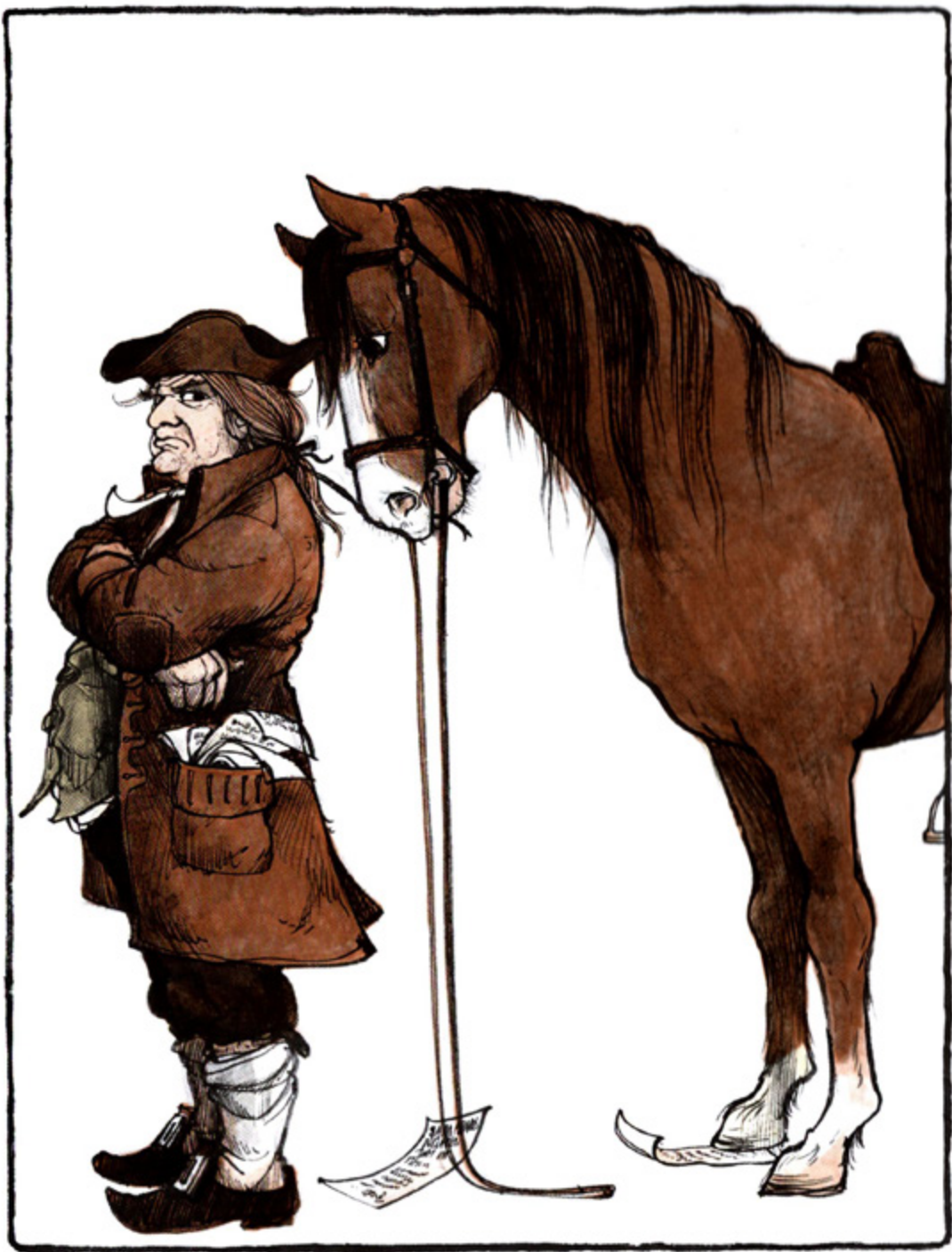


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To Jean Whitnack



From one end of the town to another Samuel walked. Indeed, how else was he to travel? A man cannot say much from the top of a horse except good morning, good evening, or giddyap, and Samuel Adams had a great deal more than that to say. Still, he did not travel alone. At his side was Queue, his shaggy Newfoundland dog.



Together they went to the docks, and while Samuel Adams talked to merchants about the wrongs of the English government, Queue smelled the good smells of Boston Harbor—drying codfish, wet rope, and sometimes, if he was lucky, a giant turtle in a crate shipped up from the South. (New Englanders doted on turtle soup.)



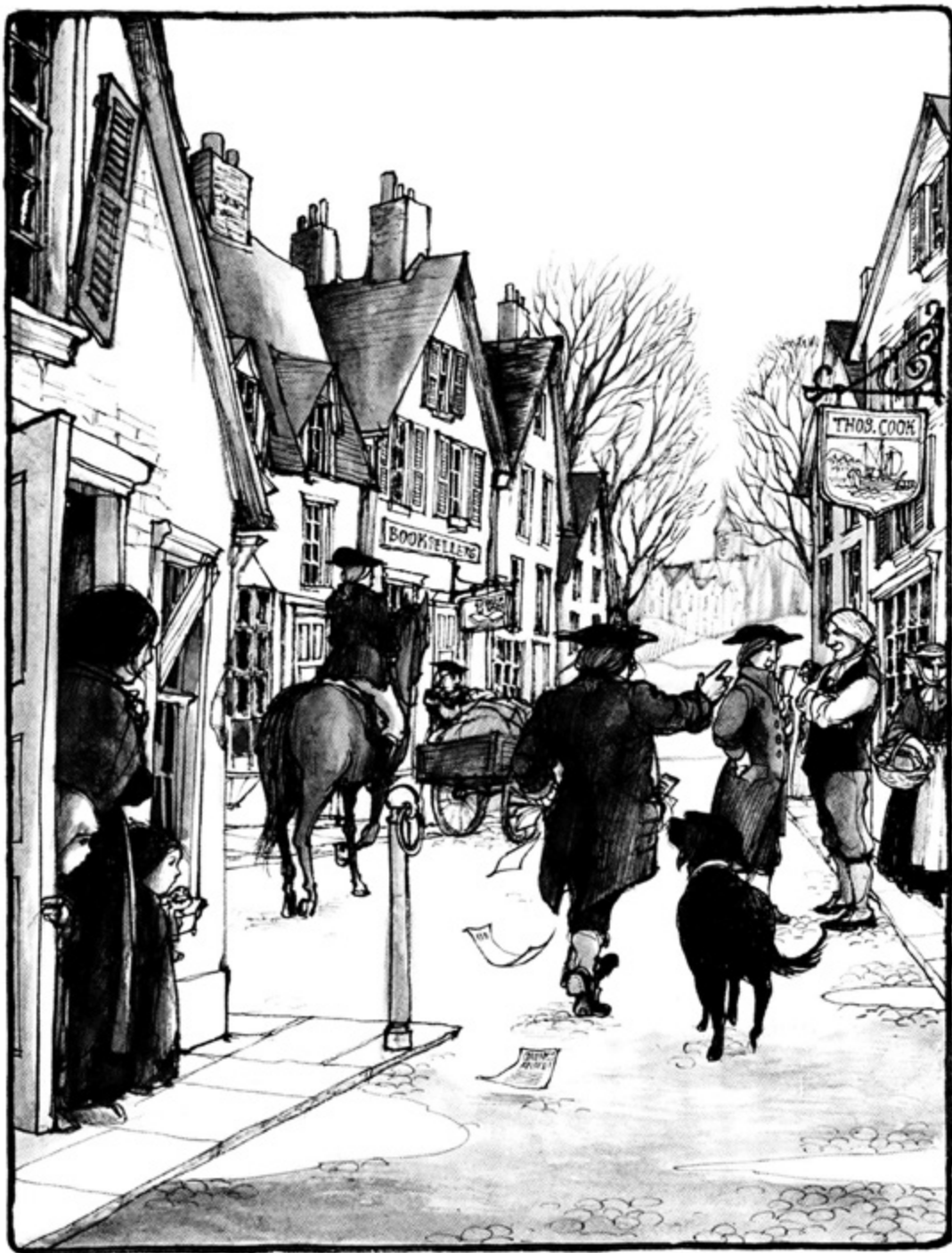
Together Samuel and Queue called on shopkeepers. Generally Samuel went inside and talked about the wickedness of England; generally Queue stayed outside and chased a stray chicken or stopped at a hitching post to visit with a horse.

Together Samuel and Queue would drop in at a tavern. Samuel would sit down and talk about American rights; Queue, blinking through the hair that fell over his eyes, would search the floor for crumbs—a morsel of cheese, a bite of plumcake, and sometimes, if he was lucky, a discarded bone.

Samuel's younger cousin John Adams often became impatient with all his walking. "Why don't you learn to ride a horse?" he would ask.



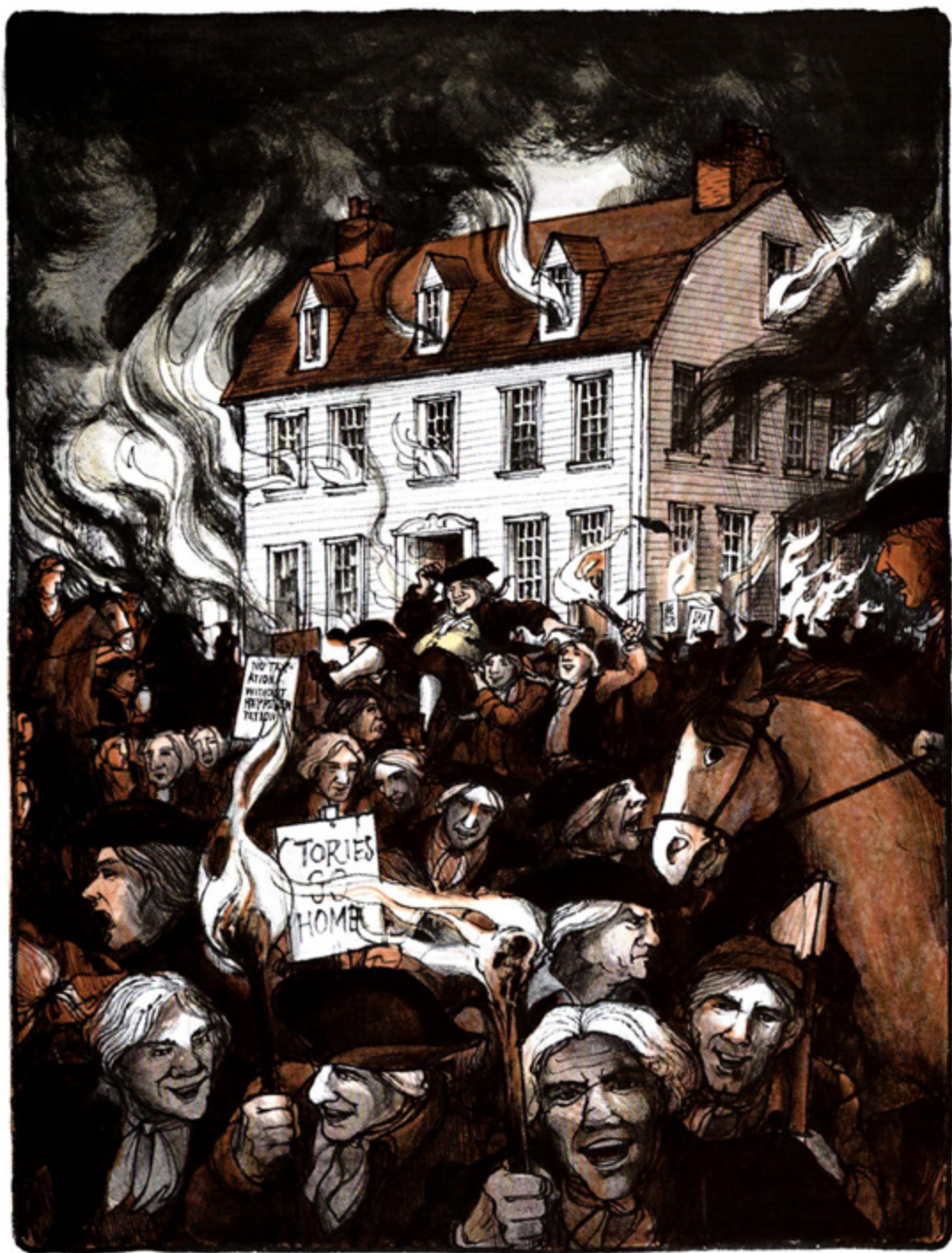


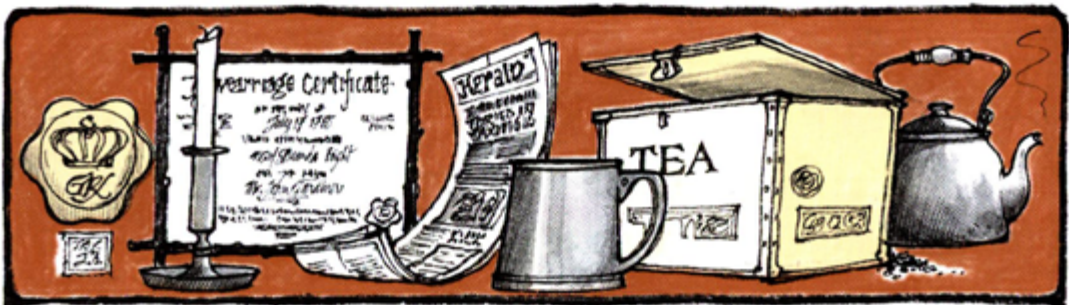




But Samuel would not learn. Winter and summer he walked and he talked. Indeed, he paid so little attention to his private business that he became quite poor. His house fell into disrepair; his clothes became shabbier; his shoe leather wore thin.

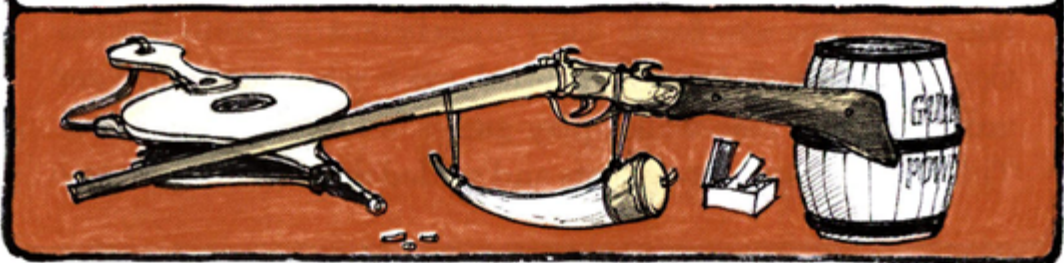






Meanwhile, England was imposing taxes on America. First a stamp tax on printed matter. No one could obtain a marriage license now or a college diploma or even buy a newspaper without paying England a share of the money. This made the people of Boston so angry they tore down the governor's house, set fire to the tax office, and elected Samuel Adams a representative to the Massachusetts legislature.

Being a member of the government, Samuel had a chance to talk to more people, but still he walked. Even when England withdrew the stamp tax, Samuel talked and walked, warning the merchants and the shopkeepers and the people at the taverns not to trust England. It had taxed America once, he said; it would try it again. And indeed a year later it did. This time Americans had to give England money whenever they bought paint, glass, lead, or tea. This made the people so angry that the king decided to send soldiers to Boston to keep order.



Spreading the word on foot!

SAMUEL ADAMS's friends think he should ride a horse, like all men did in the early days of America. But Sam prefers to walk around Boston with his dog, talking to everyone he can about England, King George, and the colonies. Even when he has to go to Philadelphia, or escape from British soldiers, Sam Adams refuses to get a horse! Jean Fritz's lively introduction to this rebellious leader shows how Sam Adams would ultimately ride into history by helping America become independent.

★ "A brisk, knowledgeable glimpse of how Samuel Adams got 'ready for history.'"
—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

Newbery Honor-winning author **JEAN FRITZ** brings history to life with her engaging biographies focusing on pivotal figures and events in America's history—together with wonderful interior illustrations by Trina Schart Hyman and a cover by Caldecott Medal winner David Small.



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