

## *Paul Revere*



Figure 2: A painting shows Paul Revere holding a silver teapot that was made in his own workshop.



Figure 1: A statue of Paul Revere atop a horse is in Boston, Massachusetts.



Figure 3: American Patriot Paul Revere, during his dramatic horseback ride from Boston to Lexington, Massachusetts, brought the news of British troops on the move, April 18, 1775.

(1735–1818). On the night of April 18, 1775, Paul Revere rode to warn American patriots northwest of Boston, Massachusetts, that the British intended to raid Lexington and Concord. The ride of this folk hero of the American Revolution was immortalized in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s 1863 ballad, *Paul Revere’s Ride*.

Revere was born about January 1, 1735, in Boston, Massachusetts. He was the third child of a silversmith, Apollos Rivoire. Apollos was a French Huguenot who had come to Boston as a boy. Later he changed his name to the simpler Revere. Young Revere became an excellent craftsman in fine metals. In 1757 he married Sarah Orne. When she died in 1773, Revere married Rachel Walker. He had eight children by each wife, but five of the children died in infancy. Revere was an early member of the Sons of Liberty, and he was one of the leaders of the Boston Tea Party in 1773.

A couple of days before Revere’s famous journey, he rode to nearby Concord. He urged the patriots there to move their military stores to protect them from British troops on the move. At this time Revere arranged to warn the patriots of the British approach by having lanterns placed in Boston’s Old North Church steeple: “One if by land, and two if by sea.” When Revere set out on April 18 on his ride to alert his countrymen, the redcoats (British soldiers) were on the march primarily in search of Samuel Adams and John Hancock, who were in Lexington. Revere and his fellow patriot William Dawes reached Lexington separately and were able to warn Hancock and Adams to flee. As a result of Revere’s warnings, the Lexington minutemen were ready the next morning for the arrival of the British and for the historic battle that launched the American Revolution.

During the war, Revere engraved the printing plates for Massachusetts’ first currency, set up a powder mill, and served in the local militia. About 1788 he opened a foundry to cast such objects as nails, cannons, and bells. He found a way to alloy copper and make brass. In his later

years he learned how to roll sheet copper. He was the first man to open a mill in the United States for that purpose. His copper sheets were used to resheathe the bottom of the ship *Constitution* (“Old Ironsides”) and to cover the dome of the Massachusetts State House. Revere died in Boston on May 10, 1818.

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