



The Life of Colonel Paul Revere

Elbridge Goss

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"Listen my children and you shall hear
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere."

When asked about Paul Revere, this is probably about all the average person could tell you. Elbridge Goss says as much in some of the last words of this book, "But he deserves better than this. His career symbolizes much more than this ride to Lexington, with his 'cry of alarm,' which went 'to every village and farm;' for, besides the various trades in which he exhibited such deft handiwork, he was an important character in many ways."

Goss's book (actually a 2-volume set, which has been combined for this e-book offering), with the gracious help of the Revere family and the people of Boston, seeks to flesh out the 83-year life of this American patriot.

Let's run down some of the various stories included:

- Revere, while known as a Silversmith, worked in gold and copper and later, after purchasing an iron foundry, cast cannons and church bells. During the Revolution, he was sent to Philadelphia to learn the making of gunpowder. He tried his hands at numerous pursuits, including, for a time, dentistry.
- At the age of 25, Revere was charged with assault after a fist fight. He was found guilty and ordered to pay a fine and court costs. The judge in his case was a Judge Richard Dana, not so famous in his own right, but the great-grandfather of Richard Henry Dana Jr., writer of "Two Years Before the Mast."
- Revere's involvement with the early Boston patriots was significant. He was an early member of the Sons of Liberty and the North End Caucus. While his exact involvement is unknown, he was considered a leader of the group that raided three British ships and dumped tea into Boston harbor.
- During the Revolution, Revere rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel as an artilleryman. He left the army after his dismissal in the aftermath of the Penobscot disaster. He was later exonerated of wrongdoing.
- In 1802, the U.S.S. Constitution, also named "Old Ironsides", was being refit with new copper plating. Revere supplied the copper sheets. Nearly a decade before, when the warship was being constructed, Revere supplied all the copper bolts and pulley blocks and numerous brass fittings.
- One of Revere's closest friends, Joseph Warren, was killed at the Battle of Bunker Hill and buried in an unmarked grave. Nine months after the battle, when the British left Boston, Revere and Warren's brothers returned to the site. After finding a grave with two bodies, it was Revere who was able to identify one as Warren due to dental work Revere had performed. Warren was moved to a marked grave.

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