

ENGRAVED FOR THE HISTORY OF BOSTON.

HENRY BOWLER, PAINTER.

CHRIST CHURCH.
(OLD NORTH CHURCH)

Paul Revere wrote two drafts of his deposition which follows. Where the language of the final draft differs from the first, the wording of the first is shown in brackets. Ed.

Paul Revere of Boston, in the Colony of Massachusetts Bay in New England; of Lawfull Age, doth testify and say, that I was [in Boston on the evening of the 18th of April 1775] sent for by Doc^r Joseph Warren, of said Boston, on the evening of the 18th of

April, about 10 °Clock; when he desired me “to go to Lexington, and inform M^r Samuel Adams, and the Hon^{le} John Hancock Esq^r that there was a number of Soldiers, composed of Light troops, & Grenadiers, marching to the bottom of the Common, where was a number of Boats to receive them; it was supposed, that they were going to Lexington, by the way of Cambridge [Watertown] River, to take *them* [Mess^{rs} Adams & Hancock] or go to Concord, to distroy the Colony Stores.” I proceeded immeditely, and was put across Charles River, [in a Boat] and landed near Charlestown Battery, went in [to the] town, and there got a Horse. while in Charlestown, I was informed by Rich^d Devens Esq^r that he mett that evening, after Sun sett, Nine Officers of the Ministeral [Gage's] Army, [well] mounted on good Horses, & Armed, going towards Concord; I set off, it was then about 11 °Clock, the Moon shone bright. I had got almost over Charlestown Common, towards Cambridge, when I saw two Officers on Horseback, standing under the shade of a Tree, in a narrow part of the roade. I [got] was near

enough to see their Holsters, & cockades. [when] One of them Started his horse towards me, [and] the other up the road, as I supposed, to head me should I escape the first. I turned my horse short about, and rid upon a full Gallop for Mistick Road, he followed [following] me about 300 yardes, and finding he could not catch me, returned [stopped]. I proceeded to Lexington, thro Mistick, and alarmed [awaked] M^r Adams & Col. Hancock. [Mess^r Adams & Hancock and delivered my message.] After I had been there about half an hour M^r Daws arrived, who came from Boston, over the neck; we set off [together] for Concord, & were overtaken by a young Gentⁿ named Prescott, who belonged to Concord, & was going home; when we had got about half way from Lexington to Concord, the other two, stopped at a House to awake the man, I kept along. When I had got about 200 Yards ahead of them, I saw two officers [under a tree] as before. I [immeditely] called to my company to come up, saying here was two of them, (for I had told them what M^r Devens

told me, and of my being stoped) in an instant, I saw four [officers] of them, who rode up to me, with their pistols in their hands, [&] said G—d d—n you stop, if you go an Inch further, you are a dead Man. immeditly M^r Prescot came up [he turned the butt end of his whipp] we attempted to git thro them, but they kept before us, and swore if we did not turn in to that pasture, they would blow our brains out, (they had placed themselves opposite to a pair of Barrs, and had taken the Barrs down) they forced us in, when we had got in, M^r Prescot said [to me] put on. He [turned] took to the left, I [turned] to the right [I found since that he knew the ground for he lived within 3 or 4 miles he jumped his horse over the wall and got to Concord], towards a Wood, at [in] the bottom of the Pasture, intending, when I gained [reached] that, to jump my Horse & run afoot; just as I reached it, out started six officers, siesed my bridle, put their pistols to my Breast, ordered me to dismount, which I did. [six others on horseback wrode up to me with their Pistols in their

hands, and put them to my Breast, siesed my bridle and ordered me to dismount.] One of them, who appeared to have the command there, and much of a Gentleman, asked me where I came from; I told him, he asked what time I left it; I told him, he seemed surprised, [he] said S^r, may I crave your name. I answered my name is [was] Revere, what said he, [he said what] Paul Revere; I answered [said] yes; the others abused me much; but he told me not to be afraid, no one [they] should [not] hurt me. I told him they would miss their Aim. He said they should not, they were only waiting [after] for some Deserters they expected down [that were on] the Road. I told him I knew better, I knew what they were after; that I had alarmed the country all the way up, that their Boats were [had] catch'd aground, and I should have 500 men there soon; one of them said they had 1500 coming; he seemed surprised and rode [immeditly] off into [up to] the road, [to them that stopped me.] and informed them who took me, they came down immeditly on a full gallop, one of them

(whom I [have] since learned, was Major Mitchel of the 5th Reg^t) clap^d his Pistol to my head, and said he was [a] going to ask me some questions, [&] if I did not tell the truth, he would blow my brains out. I told him [replied that] I esteemed [call'd] myself a man of truth, that he had stopped me on the highway, & made me a prisoner, I knew not by what right; I would tell him the truth; I was not afraid. He then asked me the same questions that the other did, and many more, but was more particular; I gave him much the same answers; [after he & two more had spoke together in a low voice] he then ordered me to mount my horse, they first searched me for pistols [Arms]. When I was [had] mounted, the Major [rode up to me &] took the reins out of my hand, and said, by G—d S^r, you are not to ride with reins I assure you; and gave them to an officer on my right to lead me. [I asked him to let me have the reins & I would not run from him, he said he would not trust me] he then Ordered 4 men out of the Bushes, and to mount their horses; they

[whom I found] were country men which they had stopped who were going home; then ordered us to march. He said [came up] to me [and said] “We are now going towards your friends, and if you attempt to run, or we are insulted, we will blow your Brains out.” [I told him he might do as he pleased] When we had got into the road they formed a circle and ordered the prisoners in the centre & to lead me in the front.

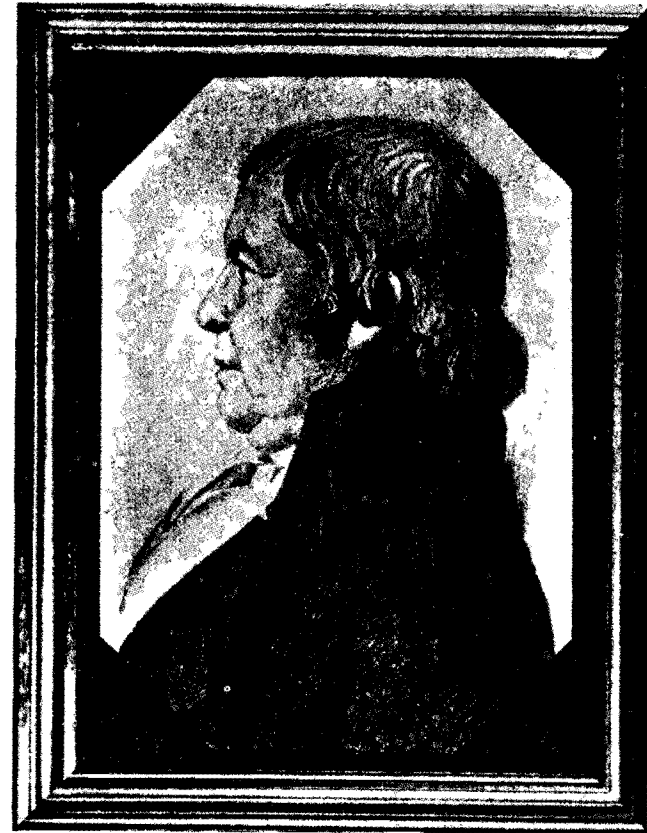
We rid [down] towards Lexington, a quick [pretty smart] pace; they very [I was] often insulted [by the officers] me calling me [damned] Rebel, &c &c. [the officer who led me said I was in a d—m—d critical situation. I told him I was sensible of it]. after we had got about a mile, I was given [delivered] to the [a] Sergant to lead, he [who] was Ordered to take out his pistol [he rode with a hanger) and if [should] I run, to execute the Major's sentence; When we got within about half a Mile of the [Lexington] Meeting house, we heard a gun fire^d; the Major asked me what it [that] was for, I told him to alarm

the country; he [then] Ordered the [other] four prisoners to dismount, they did, then one of the officers dismounted and cutt the Bridles, and Saddels, off the Horses, & drove them away, and told the men they might go about their business; I asked the Major to dismiss me, he said he would [not] carry me, lett the consequence be what it will; He then Orderd us to march; when we got within sight of the Meeting House, we heard a Volley of guns fired, as I supposed at the tavern, as an Alarm; the Major ordered us to [a] halt. he asked me how far it was to Cambridge, and many more [I told him after asking me a number of] questions, which I answered; he then asked the Sergant, if his horse was tired, he said yes; he Ordered him to take my horse [which he did]; I dismounted, the Sarjant mounted my horse; they cutt the Bridle & saddle off the Sarjant's horse & [they told me they should make use of my horse for the night and] rode off [toward Cambridge] down the road. I then went to the house where I left Mess Adams & Hancock, and told them what had happined;

their friends advised them to go out of the way: I went with them, about two miles a cross road [& there stopt]; after resting myself, I sett off with another man to go back to the Tavern, to enquire the News [whether the troops had come or were coming]; when we got there, we were told [a man who had just come up the road told us] the troops were within two miles. We went into the Tavern to git a Trunk of papers belonging to Col. Hancock, before we left [got out] the House, I saw the Ministeral Troops from the Chamber window [coming up the Road]. We made haste & had to pass thro' our Militia, who were on a green behind the Meeting house, to the number as I supposed, about [of] 50 or 60. [It was then Daylight] I went [passed] thro' them; as I passed I heard the commanding officer speake to his men to this purpose. [say words to this effect.] " Lett the troops pass by, & don't molest them, without they begin first" I had to go a cross Road, but [I] had not got half Gun shot off [distance] when the Ministeral Troops appeared in sight behinde the Meeting House;

they made a short halt, when a gun was fired. I heard the report, turned my head, and saw the smoake in front of [them] the Troops, they imeaditly gave a great shout, ran a few paces, and then the whole fired. I could first distinguish Iregular fireing, which I suppose was the advance Guard, and then platoons. At the time I could not see our Militia, for they were covered from me, by a house at the bottom of the Street. [Road] and further saith not.

PAUL REVERE.



Paul Revere

Portrait of Paul Revere by St. Mémin, reproduced from "*The Life of Colonel Paul Revere*" by Elbridge Henry Goss, Boston, 1891.