



## **Listen My Children** (Paul Revere's Ride)

A HomeschoolRadioShows Listening Guide  
by Jessica Terry

### **Summary**

"One if by land, two if by sea." Paul Revere, famous American revolution patriot, was born December 22, 1734 in Boston's North End. The son of a french Huguenot and a Boston born mother, Paul had several siblings. He was apprenticed at 13 to be a silversmith. After his first wife died leaving him 6 children, Paul married Rachel Walker in 1773. They had 5 more surviving children.

The historic event for which Paul Revere is most remembered today was a night-time ride before the battles of Lexington and Concord. His famous "Midnight ride" took place on the night of April 18/19, 1775. William Dawes and Revere were instructed by Dr. Joseph Warren to ride from Boston to Lexington to warn John Hancock and Samuel Adams of the movements of the British Army. The British were beginning a march from Boston to Lexington. Their goal was to arrest Hancock and Adams and seize the weapon stores in Concord. The sons of Liberty, upon seeing the British's movements, took action and had Revere and Dawes ride to alert other patriots of their enemy's plans.

In the days before April 18, Revere had instructed Robert Newman, the sexton of the Old North Church, to send a signal by lantern to colonists in Charlestown as to the movements of the troops when the information became known; one lantern in the steeple would signal the army's choice of the land route, while two lanterns

would signal the route "by sea" across the Charles River. This was done to get the message through to Charlestown in the event that both Revere and Dawes were captured. Newman and Captain John Pulling momentarily held two lanterns in the Old North Church as Revere himself set out on his ride, to indicate that the British soldiers were in fact crossing the Charles River that night. Thus came the famous saying "one if by land, two if by sea."



Riding through present-day Somerville, Medford and Arlington, Revere warned patriots along his route - many of whom set out on horseback to deliver warnings of their own. By the end of the night there were probably as many as 40 riders throughout Middlesex County carrying the news of the army's advancement. Revere certainly did not shout the famous phrase later attributed to him ("The British are coming!"), largely because the mission depended on secrecy and the countryside was filled with British army patrols and loyalists to the crown. Revere's warning, according to eyewitness accounts of the ride and Revere's own descriptions, was, "The regulars are coming out!" Revere arrived in Lexington around midnight, with Dawes arriving about a half hour later.

Revere's role was not particularly noted during his life. In 1861, over 40 years after his death, the ride became the subject of "**Paul Revere's Ride**", a poem by **Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**.

*Listen, my children, and you shall hear,  
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,  
On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-Five;  
Hardly a man is now alive  
Who remembers that famous day and year.*

Because he was famed after his death for his role as a messenger, Revere's name and his "midnight ride" are well-known in the United States as a patriotic symbol.

For more research on Paul Revere...

<http://www.paulreverehouse.org/>

[http://www.cvesd.k12.ca.us/finney/paulvm/h2\\_hist.html](http://www.cvesd.k12.ca.us/finney/paulvm/h2_hist.html)

## Discussion Questions

If you lived in the year of 1776, which side of the Revolutionary War do you think you would have choose to fight on? Why?

What day did Paul Revere and William Dawes ride out to warn patriots that the British were coming?

What was Paul Revere's trade?

If you were told to ride at night to warn your friends that the enemy was coming, would you be able to do it? What could you be sacrificing, other then sleep, to complete your mission?

## A Lesson To Learn

Courage, bravery and conviction are just 3 words we can use to describe our revolutionary forefathers. They died and fought for a cause that they believed was worth fighting for. Today, American people as a whole, do not take politics and world happenings very seriously. We are very entertained by our entertainment. Most of us don't know what laws are being passed or considered by our own Courts. Sadly, we have become a lazy nation and our forefathers would be ashamed of what our nation has become. What they have fought for is almost obsolete. The constitution, that they created for us, is trampled on daily. We should be involved and wise to what is going on around us! Wise as serpents, harmless as doves is a verse that comes to mind when I think of the lack of knowledge we have in affairs here and abroad. We should know what we believe, why we believe it and stand firm on it! For us, as Americans, our declaration of independence is not just a historic document, but a real, powerful testimony to God that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights..."

<http://www.law.indiana.edu/uslawdocs/declaration.html> (Declaration of Independence)