

Revere Story Plot Points

By
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- Silversmithing montage title sequence.
- **PAUL REVERE** rides through a New Hampshire forest.
- Arriving in Durham, NH, he is stopped by a sentry who has no idea who he is.
- Paul disarms him and demands to be taken to John Sullivan.
- At a pub, Paul meets **JOHN SULLIVAN**.
- Sullivan is happy to see his old friend, but is a little cautious knowing Paul brings trouble.
- Paul tells them he has been sent by Dr. Warren and that they must steal the powder from the fort since no more powder will be shipped to the colonies from England. He explains that they have a three hour window of opportunity while the British change the guard.
- Paul and rebels show up at fort and are met by **WILLIAM DAWES** and **SEABORN WALKER** (freed slave now a tradesman/mechanic).
- Paul and Sullivan's men call the British out telling them to surrender.
- The British come to the forts walls, laugh at the rebels and refuse.
- On the other side of the fort, Dawes and Seaborn throw a grapple over the opposite wall.
- Seaborn climbs the rope and sneaks through the fort.
- Seaborn gets to the fort's doors.
- As he slides away the wooden beam that serves as a lock, he's spotted.
- The redcoat's rush Seaborn while firing.
- Seaborn opens the door and the redcoats are met by Paul and Sullivan's men.
- Several redcoats are killed. A few patriots are wounded.

- Captain Corcoran is tied up and asked for the powder. He refuses to help.¹
- Revere find the storehouse location on a map in Corcoran's office.

1. The powder is stolen from Fort William and Mary.

- The redcoats return to the fort early.
- Paul tells Sullivan to take the powder up river past the fort, but to wait for his signal.
- Paul goes into the fort and spikes the guns.
- The redcoats show up at the fort and nearly catch Paul.
- Paul accidentally cuts the British flag down.
- Sullivan thinks that is Paul's signal. He begins moving past the fort.
- Paul jumps off the fort and into the water. He escapes.
- (underwater sequence)
- The redcoats fire at the rebels on the river.
- Revere and Sullivan celebrate as they float past the fort.
- Sullivan warns Revere about trusting Hancock and Adams. Paul begins to defend the men when...

2. Sullivan is killed by a British bullet.

- As they sail out of range Paul, says a prayer over the dead patriot's body and takes a small medallion in remembrance.
- In Boston, at a pub, Dawes and Seaborn drink at a corner booth loudly arguing with BENTLEY and RICHARDSON (two other mechanics) over the importance/danger/excitement of the New Hampshire raid versus the Boston Tea Party (tea party exposition).
- **DR. WARREN, JOHN HANCOCK AND SAM ADAMS** enter the pub. The pub's owner clears Dawes from the table so his more important guests can sit down.

3. Paul meets up Hancock, Adams and Warren at the pub.

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- The three leaders congratulate Paul on his success in New Hampshire. Warren discusses Paul being good for the job at hand. He mentions a new Governor, General Gage, is coming to Boston.
- When Paul leaves, Hancock questions his loyalty.
- Paul ambles over to Dawes who now drinks at the bar -- Dawes complains about Warren being too good to drink with the other North End Mechanics. Revere defends Warren.
- Paul sneaks into his house and bedroom. His wife, **RACHEL**, catches him. He attempts to smooth talk his way out of trouble and into bed. She not buying it and admonishes him for his reckless behavior. ("You're no good to us dead")
- On a busy street Rachel is opening Paul's shop as Paul works with Paul Jr. on a project. Dawes is opening his cobbler shop across the street.
- Dawes reminds Paul that they were going to go to the commons to "welcome" the new Governor. Revere takes his son and they head out to the commons.
- **GENERAL THOMAS GAGE**, the new Governor of Massachusetts, arrives at the commons with his American wife **MARGARET**, a bewitching American beauty (a beauty not lost on Paul).
- Paul comments to Dawes and Seaborn about how pretty Margaret looks.

4. On the commons, Gage gives a speech to the Bostonians and soldiers.

- Gage lays down the law to the Bostonians. He announces that they must take soldiers into their homes, they no longer have the right of free assembly and the citizenry must turn in their weapons.
- The Mechanics stampede cows through the Commons embarrassing Gage. Gage fumes. He gives Mitchell carte blanche to harass the citizens of Boston.
- Warren catches up to Paul telling him he needs to lay low for awhile and stay out of trouble.
- Paul meets a teenage, **ROBERT NEWMAN** who wants to join the mechanics.
- Paul gets rid of the kid by telling him that he doesn't know anything about the NE Mechanics.

- The Tories throw a party in Gage's honor. A local bookseller, **HENRY KNOX**, talks to Margaret (they're old friends). There is much discussion among partygoers of the situation in Boston, the rebels, and the stolen powder from Ft. William & Mary.
- They also discuss Hancock and Adams as being the leaders of the rebels.
- Major Mitchell harasses the populace of Boston in a series of very public random arrests for the cow incident. Even more are locked in the stocks.
- The North End Mechanics (Dawes, Seaborn and Paul) confront Mitchell and tar and feather him.

5. Mitchell is dumped in front of the Gage's mansion.

- Gage fumes to his advisors **LORD PERCY** and **SECRETARY FLUCKER**. They decide drastic action must be taken immediately to quell the "rebellion".
- Gage issues orders and has them distributed throughout Boston.

6. Gage begins a strict enforcement of the blockade of Boston.

- Everyone in Boston discusses what this new turn of events means to them.
- Montage of Mitchell and the redcoats destroying smuggler's contraband including food, liquor, tobacco and other staple items bound for Boston, redcoats lining the harbor which is nearly deserted, Mitchell arrests people suspected of sedition.
- From his shop, Paul, with Warren, watches the press gangs round up men and take them away.
- Warren advises caution, but Paul sees Gage's order as a challenge to be met. Paul mentions that General Gage's wife has asked for him to come to the mansion and display some of his silverwork.
- Paul goes to Gage's home and worms some information out of a guard while he waits for the General.

7. Once inside, Paul meets Margaret and is taken with her beauty.

- Gage arrives and introduces himself. Gage and Margaret marvel at Paul's skill as a silversmith.
- Paul presents a gift of a silver walking stick to Gage. Gage accepts the gift, but offers to pay Paul some money. Paul insists that he has no price.
- Paul leaves the Gage's and meets Dawes and Seaborn. He tells them that Mitchell and the redcoats are out on an excursion to Tauton.
- Paul fears the redcoats may find the rebel powder hidden there.
- Paul and his two friends do the headless horseman routine to scare the redcoats.
- Paul arrives home and talks to his children. He assures them that they are safe when they hear the bells of the Old North Church ring.
- In Paul's shop, Paul romances his wife in their first quiet moment in a long time. As things are getting heated Dawes bursts into the shop with a sealed envelope for Revere.
- The envelope is a dispatch from Hancock concerning cannons that have just arrived from England. Paul looks to Rachel who still wonders (aloud) what Paul's actions could possibly achieve. Paul responds, "Stolen powder is no good without stolen muskets".
- Paul and Dawes meet Seaborn in an alley near a dockside armory. Seaborn explains that the cannons and muskets inside the armory were off-loaded from a ship in the harbor earlier in the day.
- Paul and Company, with the help of two redcoats, **PORTER AND STOCKLEY**, raid the armory.
- As they prepare to leave, Major Mitchell rides up with several mounted dragoons.
- Paul, using one of the cannons, blows a hole in the warehouse's side wall big enough to drive a cart through.

8. Paul hijacks the cannons.

- Stockley and Porter, after delaying Mitchell and the dragoons, jump aboard the fleeing wagon and disappear with the rebels.

- Later that night in a swamp, Paul slips the cannon into the water. Paul thanks the two real redcoats, Porter and Stockley, and promises them safe passage into the countryside.
- Dawes opens one of the crates and finds several personal items that belong to Margaret Gage. Dawes and Seaborn want to keep them, but Paul insists they return them. "We are rebels not thieves".

9. Gage decides to begin raiding rebel areas for stolen guns and powder.

- Flucker has dinner with Henry Knox and casually spills the beans about Gage's plan.
- In Revere's shop Knox relates Gage's plan to raid the rebel supplies.
- Long club scene - Hancock and Adams tell him of Gage's plan to raid rebel camps. The important wooden box is established.
- Montage of Paul going to Knox's bookshop and the redcoats raiding several farms and houses always coming up empty-handed.
- Disgusted by the lack of progress, Gage rails at Mitchell. Mitchell makes excuses, telling Gage that the rebels must have a spy somewhere on the inside.

10. Gage finds a spy of his own.

- At Knox's bookshop, Paul is picking up another book. Margaret approaches him. She thanks him for having her crate of mementos delivered to her home. Paul feigns ignorance. Margaret thanks him anyway.
- Their cordial conversation is rife with sexual undertones as they discuss Paul's skill as an artist.
- Rachel comes into the shop, sees Paul and has daggers in her eyes. Paul sees the look and breaks off with Margaret.
- The next morning, at church, Rachel is still pissed with Paul when the Minister comes up and admonishes Paul to be more careful in his nightly errands.
- Warren and Dr. Church come up to Paul and Rachel and the Minister move on. Paul discusses the next raid the British are planning.

11. Gage sets a trap for Paul at a farmhouse.

- Paul, Dawes and Seaborn arrive at a farm house and inspect a store of powder. Paul descends into a tunnel beneath the barn.
- As Dawes and Seaborn stand watch several redcoats come riding up. Dawes tries to warn Paul. Dawes and Seaborn escape into the woods. Paul is trapped in the tunnel.
- The redcoats discover the tunnel with the stolen supplies. Paul, not wanting the powder to fall into British hands, lights a fuse to blow it up.
- As he charges out of the tunnel, Paul saves Mitchell's life as the tunnel explodes.
- Mitchell questions Paul for saving his life. Revere says, "We aren't at war yet".

12. Paul Revere is arrested.

- In prison, Paul is visited by Gage who asks him to give up his friends. Paul refuses.
- The two redcoats, Porter and Stockley, are hanged in the Boston common outside Paul's cell.
- At a banquet hall, Gage revels over the capture of Paul. Margaret talks back to him and Gage slaps her. Margaret gets the last word.
- In Warren's study, Rachel comes to ask for help in freeing Paul. They tell her they can't help.
- Rachel visits Paul in prison. Paul talks about his father and relates his father's plight to what is happening now and what freedom means to him.
- In Paul's shop, Margaret comes to visit Rachel. The two women talk about their husbands.

13. Margaret tells Rachel about Paul's impending move to a prison ship.

- Rachel goes to visit Dawes, Seaborn and the other North End Mechanics at a tavern. She has a plan for getting Paul out of jail.
- Dawes, Seaborn, Bentley and Richardson, dressed as a naval press gang bringing new inductees aboard Paul's prison ship.

- They free Paul from his cell.
- Seaborn is killed during the escape.

14. Paul escapes from the British Prison ship.

- Gage has received orders from London to arrest Hancock and Adams.
- Gage is furious about Paul's escape, but refuses to change his plans for a raid on Concord to arrest Hancock and Adams and locate the stolen cannons and powder. Gage elaborates the goals of his plan.
- Gage sends patrols out to capture messengers who may spread the news of his troop movements.
- Paul visits Dr. Warren and thanks him for his help in getting him out of prison. Warren tells Paul his suspicions that the British are planning an assault on the countryside. The rebels, however, do not know the exact location of the raid.
- Warren tells Paul that if the British are going to Medford in the South they'll go by land and if they go to Concord in the North they'll go by sea.
- Paul and his messengers must be prepared to ride at a moments notice.
- At the cemetery of North Church, Paul chats with Rachel over the grave of his father, dead wife and dead child. Paul gets the idea for the signal by looking at the church steeple.
- Rachel is very supportive of Paul and now understands why he does what he does. She urges him to ride.
- Paul meets with Dawes and the NE Mechanics and informs them of the "one if by land, two if by water" plan.
- Newman waits for information regarding the British plans.
- Gage orders the troops to move out across the bay. Margaret listens to the plan.
- Margaret goes to Warren's house and tells him of the plan. Paul is there.
- Paul tells Newman to set out two lanterns.

15. Newman sets out the signal and the messengers slip out of Boston.

- Across the river, the signal is received and several riders set out to warn the countryside.
- Paul, Bentley and Richardson improvise a way to muffle the boat's oars using Bentley's girlfriend's petticoats.
- Paul crosses the river under the watchful eye of a British war ship.

16. Revere warns the countryside of the coming British.

- In Gage's carriage, Gage gives Dr. Church the walking stick that Paul gave him in payment for spying.
- Montage of Redcoat patrols ambushing the Mechanics who ride with advance warning of the British movements.
- Paul breaks through a redcoat patrol.
- Across the river from Boston the entire British army is assembling along the shore.
- Revere catches up to/warns Adams and Hancock in Lexington.
- Dawes catches up with Paul in Lexington. They pick up another rider, **DR. PRESCOTT**.
- Paul, Dawes and Prescott ride out of Lexington.
- The trio stops at a house to warn the residents.
- The trio is confronted by a British patrol.
- Paul runs interference so his friends can escape.
- Dawes and Prescott escape and continue on to Concord.

17. Paul escapes into the thick woods.

- Paul emerges from the woods to find Adams/Hancock in a coach along the Concord road.
- Paul warns them that British patrols are everywhere.
- Hancock explains that they are on their way to Lexington to retrieve a box of secret papers at the Buckman Tavern.
- Paul tells them it is too dangerous.

18. Paul offers to return to Lexington to retrieve Hancock's trunk of secret papers.

- The trunk contains information about key members of the revolution which could lead to their arrest and the location of all rebel stores.
- Paul makes plans to meet them at the river and heads back to Lexington.
- The British and Mitchell advance on Lexington.
- Paul arrives in Lexington.
- Paul goes through town and sees redcoats approaching.
- Rebels are assembling on the Lexington green.
- Rebels pull cannon from the swamp and prepare them for battle.
- Women and children wrap paper wads of gunpowder for the impending battle.
- Paul meets Dr. Warren on Green. Paul tells him to leave.
- Dr. Warren tells Paul he is going to fight alongside the rebels.
- Paul goes to tavern to get the trunk.
- Paul meets Dr. Church in the tavern.
- Church asks about Hancock and Adam's location.
- Paul sees Dr. Church's walking stick and recognizes it as the one he gave Gage.

19. Paul realizes that Dr. Church is spy for the British.

- Paul warns Church that he should leave the country.
- Paul goes upstairs to Hancock's room.
- As he picks up the box he sees the two sides facing off across the green.
- Paul sees a sniper is about to fire on Dr. Warren at the front of the rebel line. Warren yells to the British commander to turn back.

20. Paul fires the first shot of the revolution by shooting at the sniper.

- All hell breaks loose on the green.
- The British advance and fire on the rebels in Lexington.

- Mitchell sends troops to search the tavern.
- Paul goes out the rear of the tavern, jumps onto a carriage and takes off with the trunk.

21. Paul leads Mitchell and a redcoat attachment away with the carriage.

- Mitchell chases Paul through the countryside.
- Paul is about to get away when a Redcoat detachment blocks his path.

22. Paul is captured by a British patrol.

- Mitchell and his men arrive moments later.
- Paul is taken from the coach and placed with other captured messengers.
- Bentley and Richardson have been captured and Paul talks with them.
- The Redcoats are about to search the coach when Mitchell announces that he plans to hang Paul.
- A rope is set over an old maple tree.
- The noose is slipped around Paul's neck and he is about to be hung when...
- From out of the silent darkness the sound of CHURCH BELLS calling the towns to arms, sends chills down the redcoat's spines.
- Dawes and Prescott charge into the British camp, cut the rope around Paul's neck and escape into the darkness.

23. Paul escapes from the British.

- Mitchell leads the chase through the wooded roads.
- Paul crosses a wooden bridge into a town as the citizenry prepare for confrontation.
- Mitchell approaches the bridge.
- Paul grabs a lit cannon and fires at the bridge, destroying it and killing Mitchell.
- Paul catches up to Hancock and Adams at the river. He gives them the trunk.

24. Paul sees Adams/Hancock off to safety.

- Paul tells them he is going back to Concord to join in the fight.
- As Paul rides toward the sunrise we see a fife and drum corps leading several militia men over a hill and past him.
- A baritone voice reads "Paul Revere's Ride" by Longfellow.

Character Sketches

Paul Revere - Paul Revere was born January 1, 1735, in Boston, the third child of a silversmith, Apollon De Revoire, a French Huguenot who had come to Boston as a boy later changing his name to the simpler Revere. As an apprentice to his father, Paul became an excellent craftsman in fine metals.

In 1757 he married Sarah Orne. When she died in 1773, Paul was heartbroken. After a few years he met and married Rachel Walker. He had eight children by each wife, but five of the children died in infancy. Each of the children's death greatly affected Paul who referred to them as, "my little lambs".

In 1775 the population of Boston looks up to and trusts Sam Adams, Dr. Warren and Revere. Although he is a leading patriot Paul can sometime be something of a rouge. He and his band of "mechanics" are responsible for much of the spying and mischief which befall the British army. Everyone in town knows Paul and everyone is influenced by him one way or another.

Prior to the story Paul has been responsible for the infamous Boston Tea Party, where patriots, dressed like Indians, dumped British tea into Boston harbor rather than pay an inflated tax. Paul's a daring man who takes far too many chances for a husband and parent. At times his love of the "game" overpowers his ability to think straight. This is when Paul usually gets in too deep.

Like his contemporaries, Paul's dreams and goals are simple. A free society where he can say as he pleases and do as he pleases. Paul and the New Englanders he represents are hard working folk who have never been to England, never seen a King and find the rule by a monarch some 3,000 miles away to be intolerable.

Rachel Revere - Paul's second wife, Rachel Walker is a woman of strength and compassion. She has a sunny disposition, is deeply religious and completely devoted to Paul and her family. This devotion to family is what drives her to discourage Paul from riding for Sam Adams and the Mechanics. She fears that Paul will be hurt or killed. Her attitude changes, however, when Paul explains his father's struggle for freedom and attempt to build a home

in America. When she sees how important his work for Adams, Hancock and the revolution are to him, she encourages him to ride.

General Thomas Gage - Tall and imposing with handsome delicate features, Gage was born in England in 1720 of solid, upright, aristocratic stock. Being a second born son disqualified him from inheriting his family's lands and wealth so Gage elected for a career in the Army. Gage liked army life taking pleasure in the discipline and the pageantry. Cautious and conservative, Gage was made commander in chief of all British forces in America. During this time he married an American heiress, Margaret Kemble, of New Jersey.

Gage's military career, however, was based almost entirely on defeats and after each defeat he was promoted. When he is appointed Governor of Boston with the express purpose of quelling the rebellion there, Gage sees a chance to put past defeats behind him and find a measure of redemption. Not only does his practical sense drive him to succeed, but he has a deep personal interest in seeing that the rebels in Boston are suppressed.

Major Mitchell - Even amongst his own troops, Major Mitchell is considered a major bastard. His open contempt for the people of Boston is outdone only by his cruelty toward them. His rank of Major has been achieved by an impressive record of success. The successes, no matter how impressive, have come via great cruelty and ruthlessness. When Gage gives the word to Mitchell start cracking heads, the Major accepts the task with great zealousness. He knows of Paul and hates the man. As the story progresses this hate toward Revere will compound until it becomes an obsession.

Margaret Kemble Gage - Margaret, the American born wife of General Thomas Gage hails from one of the richest families in New Jersey. While not an arranged marriage, it is a marriage that seemed like a better idea at the time. Margaret's original compassion for her husband has been diminished with each promotion he receives. She is very cool and calculating and in spite of her allegiance to the crown, she has never been able to understand England's position with regard to the colonies. More than once she has offered sage advice to her husband concerning the way

things happen in America, and yet he continues to ignore her.

Her weakness is her compassion for the Americans. As the wife of one of the Empire's most powerful generals, she is expected to stand behind her husband and his ideals. This has created a great conflict in her marriage within herself.

Tired of standing in her husband's shadow and weary of his mistreatment of the Colonial citizenry, Margaret chooses to assert herself by doing what she can in aiding the rebels she feels compassion for. By the film's end Margaret has picked herself up and chosen to return to her roots and support the pursuit of liberty.

William Dawes - A leather worker who specializes in the making of cordovan shoes, Dawes is a typical "working man" of Boston. Honest as the day is long, Dawes, like Paul, is a diligent worker and a true patriot.

Dawes is a fourth generation American whose parents and grandparents all worked in the same trade. He likes what he does and considers himself a very fortunate man. What Dawes does not like, or tolerate, is vicious acts against the citizenry by the British, he sees daily from his shop.

Having known Revere since childhood, Dawes has always been a follower. He works hard and asks few questions. Like the other mechanics he practically worships Revere and would willingly give his life for the man.

His lack of formal education makes him naturally suspicious of the upper class (in particular Hancock). His place in history is overshadowed by Revere. Dawes and Dr. Prescott are the only two men to make it through to Concord. Another man might be jealous that Revere would become a prominent historical figure and not himself, but for Dawes, that's just okay by him.

Seaborn Walker - As his name explains, Seaborn (25) was born at sea to a captured slave woman named Phillis. While in his teens he was presented to Sam Adams and his wife, as a gift. Adams, not wishing to insult the gift giver, graciously accepted the gift. The very next day Adams took the boy to the city offices and paid a £50 bond and declared the young man free.

Alone in a strange northern city and possessing few skills, Adams introduced Walker to Matthew Geary, a wainwright (wheelmaker) who gave the young man an apprenticeship. Several years later when Geary died, Walker took over and became a rather successful businessman.

As a tradesman, Walker is allowed membership into the North End Mechanics. Sponsored by Revere, he proves to be a loyal and active member. Perhaps because he already knows what it's like to be without freedom, or perhaps it's his over-zealousness to impress his peers, Walker can be counted on and trusted beyond all others.

While he does feel the sting of prejudice from time to time, when he is with the North End Mechanics, there is no man in New England brave enough to utter even the slightest epithet.

John Hancock - Hancock's father died when he was a child and he was adopted by his uncle, a rich Boston merchant. Hancock inherited his uncle's wealth when he was 28 years old. The wealth, massive as it is, is mostly attributable to the Hancock family's proficiency in smuggling. In fact, the Boston blockade only served to make Hancock a richer man as his goods (in particular, tea) easily made it past the British lines.

Perhaps Hancock's greatest weakness or flaw is forgetting who he is. As the child of simple folks, he is a newcomer to the aristocracy and has turned his back on those of lower standing. While this causes him concern at times, he seldom shows it. Hancock seeks a free America where he can establish himself in a position of influence and power. After the dust of war has settled Hancock see his fortune growing and growing. Hancock's opposition to British rule is inspired by business interest, but, whatever his motives, he is valuable to the cause.

Sam Adams - Adams failed at being a lawyer, at being brewer and at being a tax collector until he found his true calling as a politician. Once wealthy, he squandered the family fortune always preferring politics to business. Considered the father of the American revolution, his fiery rheortic and backstage maneuvering held the Boston rebels together when the British took their anger out on the citizens of the city.

Dr. Joseph Warren - About the same age as Paul, Warren is a successful Doctor who leads the rebels in Boston. A motivator known for his sage advice and incisive thought, Warren inspires Paul to search within himself to understand what the upcoming revolution will mean to him (Revere).

Dr. Benjamin Church - Church is a down-on-his-luck, 50-year-old doctor prone to nervous ticks and bouts of hypochondria. He joined the cause of the rebels because he thought it might revive his career or at least provide him with some steady income. His financial situation, however, worsened as the British tightened the noose around Boston. When Gage approaches him to spy for the British he is only too happy to accept the money believing that the American rebels are doomed to failure in the long run regardless. Church also believes that helping the British will buy him powerful friends once Hancock and Adams are arrested and out of the way.