



TallShipTuesdays

Historical Context

April 1775 was an unusually warm month. Outside Boston, the colonists planted their vegetable gardens—beets, Lady Finger potatoes, and Tendergreen mustard. Young cattle grazed in the fields. Men of all ages formed citizen militias, ready to defend their homes and farms if the British army should threaten them.

On April 18, 1775, patriot leaders John Hancock and Samuel Adams were in Lexington, Massachusetts, after attending a meeting of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress in Concord, a few miles away. They were staying at the home of one of Hancock's relatives, Reverend Jonas Clarke, before leaving for the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia.

A few days earlier, rebel spies had learned of British plans to march to Lexington, probably to arrest the two men and seize militia supplies in Concord. Dr. Joseph Warren, head of the Boston Committee of Correspondence, asked Paul Revere—the committee's most trusted rider—to carry a warning to Lexington; the British army was leaving the confines of Boston and was on the march!

Vocabulary

- **Tories:** Colonists who supported the British during the American Revolution. They were also called **Loyalists**.

Did you know...?

- There is no evidence that Paul Revere shouted, "The British are coming!" In April 1775, the colonists still considered themselves British. It is more probable that he and the many other riders that night warned that the regulars or king's men were coming.

Resource – the historical context comes from the short story "Nothing Stops Paul Revere" by Marcella Fisher Anderson in the book, *Young Patriots: Inspiring Stories of the American Revolution*, by Marcella Anderson & Elizabeth Vollstadt. The story is read by Capt. Jones in the #TallShipTuesdays video, "Nothing Stops Paul Revere."

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