

for. In a matter of minutes, he arrives at his good friend's home where an anxious Warren asks him to leave immediately for Lexington. He must notify Samuel Adams and John Hancock that the soldiers are moving. There is a good chance that Adams and Hancock are in danger. Revere learns that Warren has already sent another messenger rider, William Dawes. Revere knows Dawes, who is one of his neighbors.

Dawes's route will be hazardous because he will have to ride out through the British guards on Boston Neck. Revere's route, across the Charles River by row-boat to Charlestown, will be equally dangerous. The chances of both messengers getting through to Lexington is far from certain. Revere realizes this. During his recent visit to Charlestown, he told members of the Sons of Liberty about his idea for a signal that will alert them to the movement and route of the British troops. The signal will insure that this vital information is delivered to Adams and Hancock even if both messenger riders are captured or delayed. This pre-arranged signal involves showing lanterns briefly in the steeple window of Christ Church in Boston: "one lantern" if the troops would march "by land" out Boston Neck and "two lanterns" if they would row "by water" across the Charles River to Cambridge. After talking to Dr. Warren, Revere knows that the signal will be "two lanterns."

At about 10 p.m., Paul Revere leaves in great haste from Dr. Warren's home and cautiously makes his way to the corner of Salem and Sheafe streets and the house of Robert Newman, the sexton of Christ Church. Looking through a window into the Newman home, Revere is shocked to see a party of British army officers laughing and playing cards at a parlor table. They are living with the Newman family because of the Quartering Act, which forces Boston families to provide food and shelter for the King's troops occupying Boston. For a moment, Revere hesitates, and his thoughts race. What if he cannot contact Newman? The sexton has the only key to the church. Without him there will be no signal to the Sons of Liberty in Charlestown. Paul Revere considers what to do next.

Fortunately, 23-year-old Robert Newman had the sense to foresee Revere's situation. Just before Paul Revere's arrival, he bid the officers goodnight and pretended to go to bed early. Instead, he opened a window in his chamber, climbed outside, and dropped to the garden below. Newman gathered here with another Revere associate, John Pulling, and a neighbor, Thomas Barnard. The three men awaited Revere's arrival. Now, as Paul Revere stands in the darkness outside the sexton's home, Newman, Pulling, and Barnard greet him. He gives the men their instructions, and the plan is set into motion.