



# Is this source credible?

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## Analyzing Secondary Sources



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**HISTORICAL  
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NATIONAL HISTORY DAY IN IDAHO

# EVALUATING SOURCES

O

## ORIGIN

- Where does this source come from?
- When was the information published or posted?
- Who is the author, publisher, source, or sponsor?
- Are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations given? What are them?

P

## PURPOSE

- What was the purpose of the information?
- What perspective is the author trying to convey?
- Is the purpose clear?
- Is the information: fact, opinion, or propaganda?
- Does the point of view appear objective or impartial?

V

## VALUE

- How useful is this source?
- How can it be applied to my project?
- Has the information been reviewed or referred?
- Can you verify the information in another source?

L

## LIMITATION

- How reliable is this source?
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Origin

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## The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere and Some Other Guys

The midnight ride wasn't so much a solo operation as it was a relay



Paul Revere gets all the credit, but he had a little help from his friends. (Charles Bush, from the New York Public Library)

By [Kat Eschner](#)  
[smithsonianmag.com](#)  
April 18, 2017

As the poem which immortalized Paul Revere [tells it](#), there was nobody on his midnight ride but him and his horse.

But there are a few things Henry Wadsworth Longfellow glossed over: namely that Revere wasn't alone on his famous ride, when he warned American patriots that British troops were on the move, this night in 1776. A more accurate title would have been "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere, William Dawes and Samuel Prescott."

The ride went like this, [according to](#) The Paul Revere House: Revere was asked by patriot [Joseph Warren](#) to take news to Lexington that British troops were on the march.

"According to Warren, these troops planned to arrest Samuel Adams and John Hancock, who were staying at a house in Lexington, and probably continue to the town of Concord, to capture or destroy military stores—gunpowder, ammunition and <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/midnight-ride-paul-revere-and-some-other-guys-180962866/>

# The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere and Some Other Guys

The midnight ride wasn't so much a solo operation as it was a rel

By **Kat Eschner**

SMITHSONIANMAG.COM

APRIL 18, 2017

Where?  
When?  
Who?



Kat Eschner is a freelance science and culture journalist based in Toronto.

[Read more from this author](#) | [FOLLOW @KATESCHNER](#)

Credentials?



Purpose

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### British Forces Retreat

Around mid-morning, the British forces consolidated in the center of Concord (which, incidentally, was not burned -- in fact, British soldiers helped put out a fire that had spread to a house). Having been up all night and morning on the march, they needed a rest. Still, Colonel Smith knew well enough that the longer they waited, the larger the force of militia men grew. Around noon, they began the long march back to Boston.

### American Ambush

The Americans now had the advantage of numbers. More than a thousand men rushed ahead of the British column, setting up ambushes and sniper's nests for the Redcoats. Where the road narrowed at Meriam's Corner, the British flankers had to rejoin the column -- allowing the Americans to get close and attack the main group. The British took many casualties, while the guerrilla tactics of the locals kept their losses to a minimum.

Purpose?  
Perspective?  
Point of  
View?

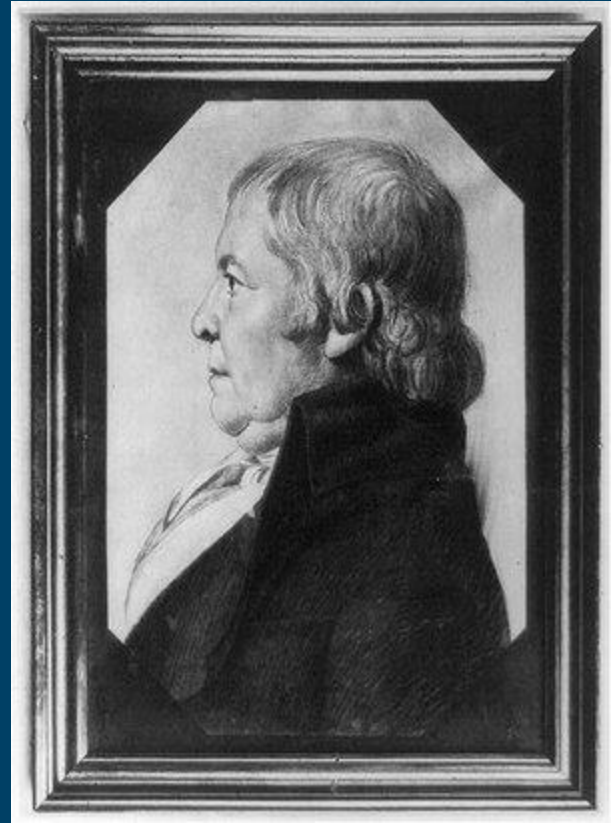




Value

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# Useful for my project?



What was the name of Paul Revere's horse?

This question should properly be, "What was the name of the horse Revere rode?" because there is no evidence that Revere owned a horse at the time he made his famous ride. Revere may have owned a horse at an earlier date. If he did not, he certainly had ready access to horses at some point in order to become the experienced rider that he was. If he had owned a horse in April 1775, it is unlikely he would have tried to bring it with him when he was rowed across the Charles River to Charlestown, prior to setting off on his ride.

Revere left several accounts of his "Midnight Ride," and, although he states that he borrowed the horse from John Larkin, neither he nor anyone else takes much notice of the mount, or refers to it by name. Revere calls it simply "a very good horse." In the years since 1775 many names have been attached to the animal, the most exotic probably being Scheherazade. The only name for which there is any evidence, however, is Brown Beauty. The following excerpt is taken from a genealogy of the Larkin family, published in 1930.

Can I verify  
this  
information?



## The Midnight Ride in Revere's Own Words

Paul Revere provided three accounts of his ride on April 18th 1775. His first two accounts, a draft and a corrected copy of a deposition, both dated 1775, were made at the request of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress. These depositions, taken from all eyewitnesses to the skirmish on Lexington Green, were compiled in the hopes of obtaining proof that the British had fired the first shot.

Though written 23 years after the fact, the most complete account of the ride is Paul Revere's letter to Jeremy Belknap, Corresponding Secretary of the Massachusetts Historical Society, dated 1798.

To view the actual letter and a transcription, [click here](#).

The link to the Belknap letter is provided courtesy of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

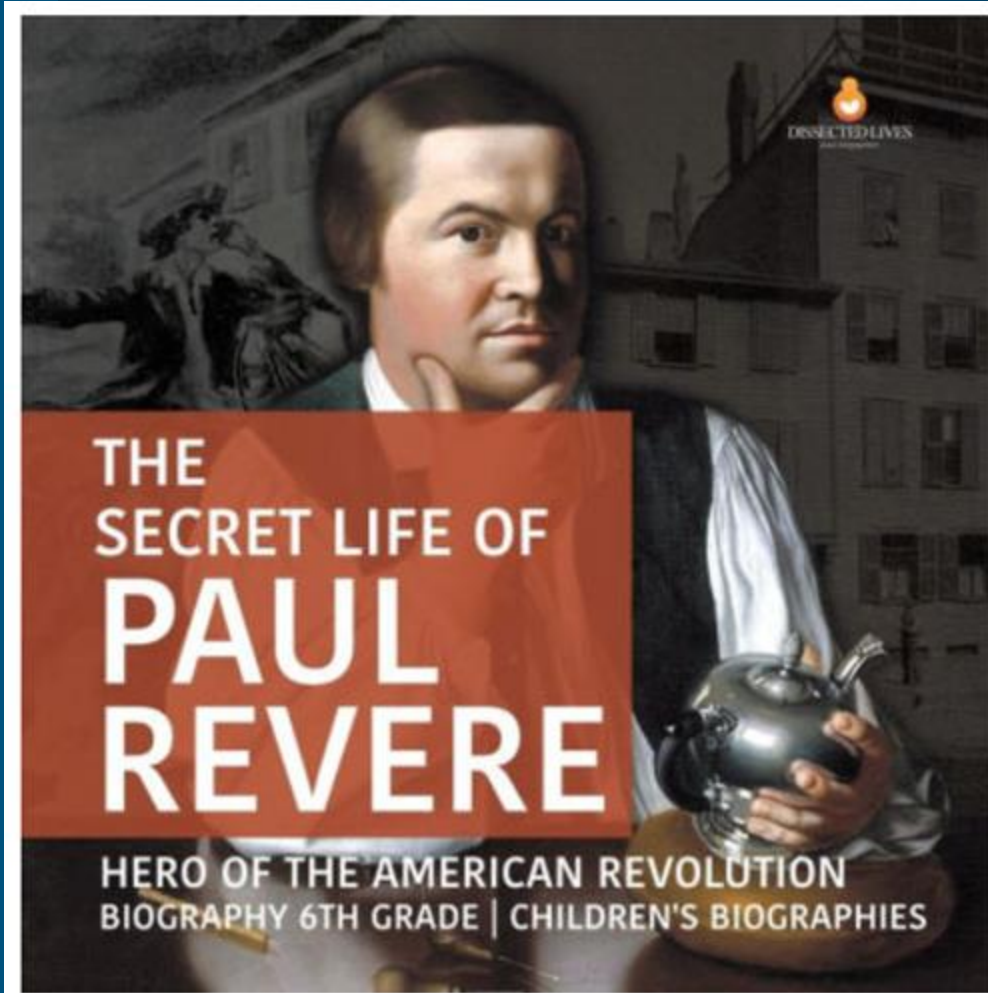
The Society owns the largest collection of Revere manuscripts, most held as the Revere Family Papers.



Limitations

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*What really  
happened  
on Paul Revere's Ride  
on  
April 18, 1775?*



0:02 / 5:47



What Really Happened on Paul Revere's Ride

5,933 views



38



2



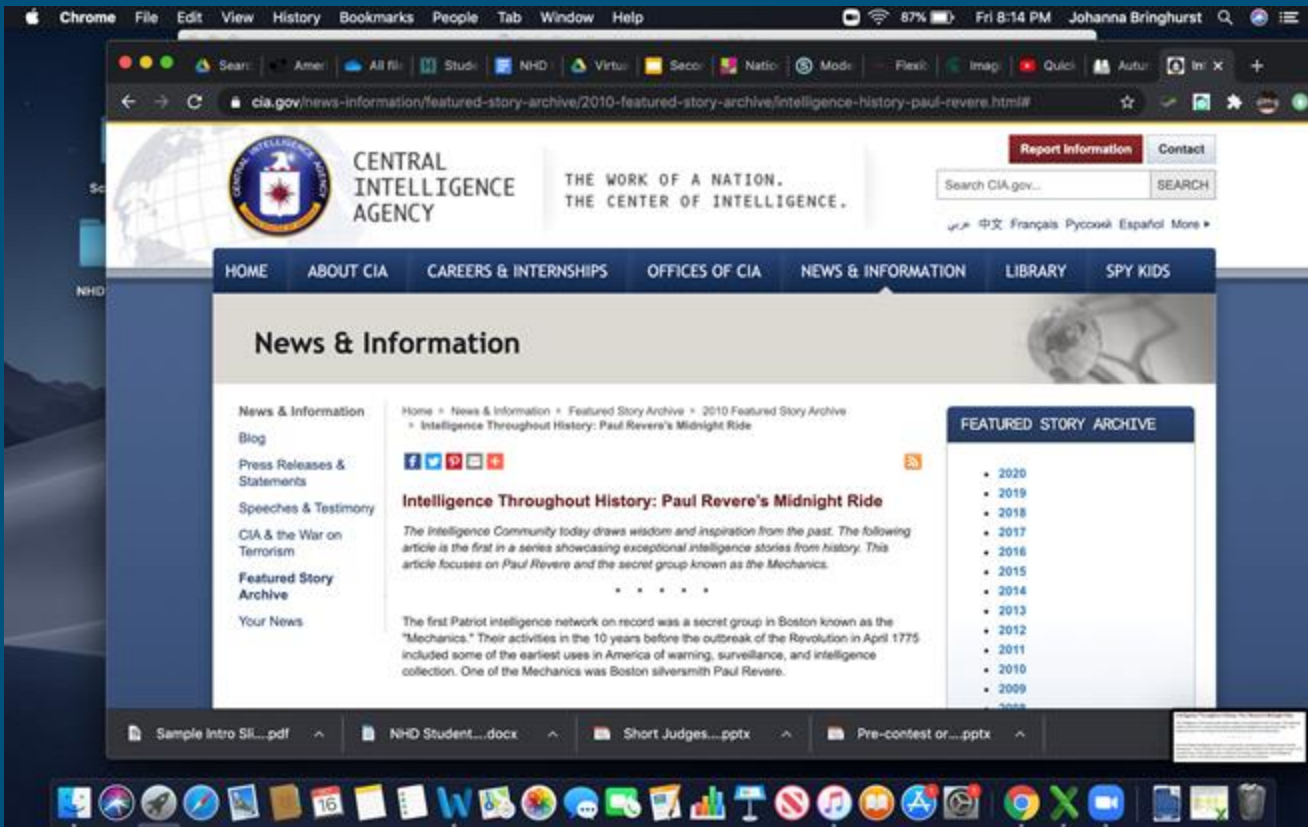
SHARE



SAVE



Reliable?  
Reviewed?  
Referred?



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Use one note sheet for each source. Begin a new note sheet for a new source!

**Citation:** Use the web address for your source to create a citation using [Citation Machine](#). Use notes for only this source! When you are done taking notes, OPVL the source in the table below.

Concept/Sub Question(s):

Cue Column:

**Note Taking Column:** Write your notes here, using a bullet point for each new note. No copying and pasting, notes must be written entirely in your own words!

<b>Origin</b>	
<b>Purpose</b>	
<b>Value</b>	
<b>Limitation</b>	

**Summarize:** After taking your notes, rewrite them in complete sentence form to summarize what you have learned. Group your sentences based on the Cue Column.

<https://history.idaho.gov/nhdi/student-toolkit/>



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