

0. WAS IT COWARDICE? - Story Preface

1. PENOBSCOT EXPEDITION

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3. WAS IT COWARDICE?

4. MORE ABOUT REVERE and THE EXPEDITION



"Destruction of the American Fleet at Penobscot Bay, 14 August, 1779" is an oil painting by Dominic Serres (1722-1793). It depicts the actions of American patriots who had failed to attack the British, when they were able, then were trapped after British ships arrived on the scene. The Americans thought it better to destroy their own vessels than allow the British to capture them. (Note the fires along the back of the work.) The painting is maintained at the National Maritime Museum in London, England.

Looking back it's hard to judge which American action (or lack thereof) was the most embarrassing. Almost more costly than anything else, given the years left to fight the Revolutionary War, were the loss of these ships (and the funds which had been used to purchase them).

Castine remained in British hands throughout the entire war.

American patriots, captured when British soldiers burned their mid-coast villages, were forced to build the rest of Ft. George. The entire expedition was an unmitigated embarrassment and disaster.

Back home, Paul Revere was charged with cowardice and insubordination. He was, after all, commander of the land artillery that was never used until it was too late.

Revere stood trial in a court martial proceeding. By the time the event actually occurred, the war was over. Only two charges remained:

- "For his refusal to deliver a certain Boat to the order of General Wadsworth when upon the Retreat up Penobscot River, from Major Bagwaduice."
- "For his leaving Penobscot River without Orders from his Commanding Officer."

Revere was acquitted in 1782, but his honor was forever tarnished.

Leaving a career in the military was easy for Revere to do. He returned to the trade he had learned from his father and became a famous silversmith.

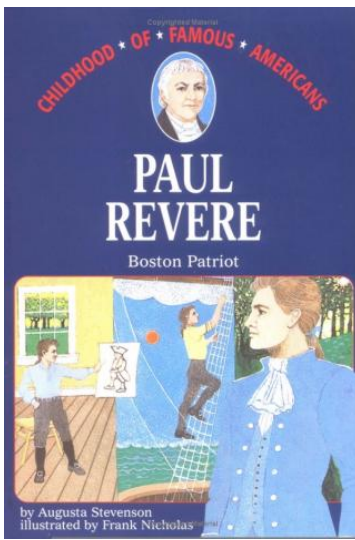
Revere died when he was 83. His final resting place is the Old Granary Burying Ground in Boston.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/WAS-IT-COWARDICE-Paul-Revere-Treason-Trial>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/WAS-IT-COWARDICE-Paul-Revere-Treason-Trial>



Paul Revere: Boston Patriot - by Augusta Stevenson

Image online, courtesy the [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) website.

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Paul Revere's Grave Site

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