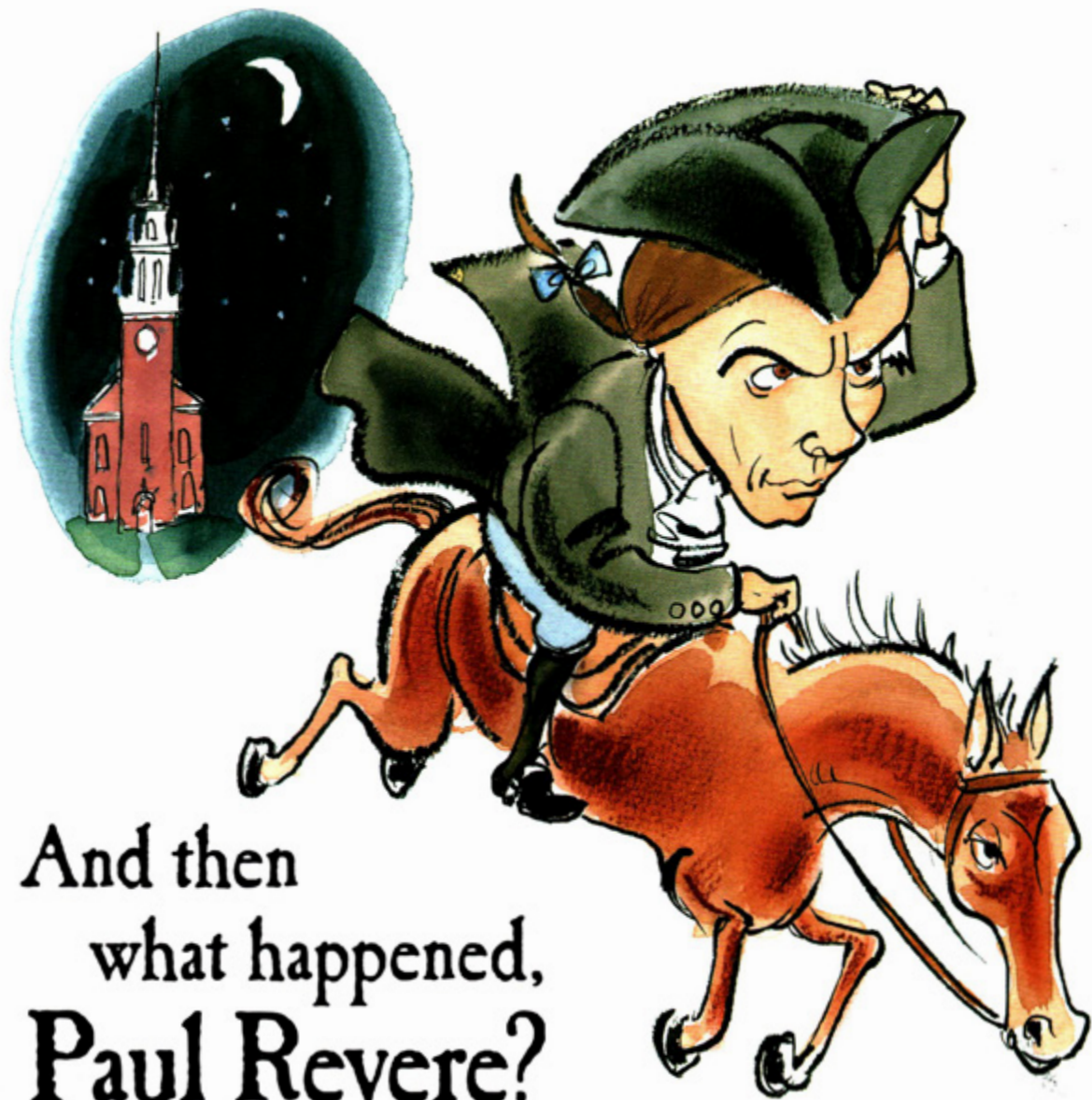




★ Bringing History to Life ★



And then
what happened,
Paul Revere?

NEWBERY HONOR-WINNING AUTHOR
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BY JEAN FRITZ

PICTURES BY MARGOT TOMES
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PAUL REVERE , PATRIOT

From the Portrait by John Singleton Copley, ca. 1765

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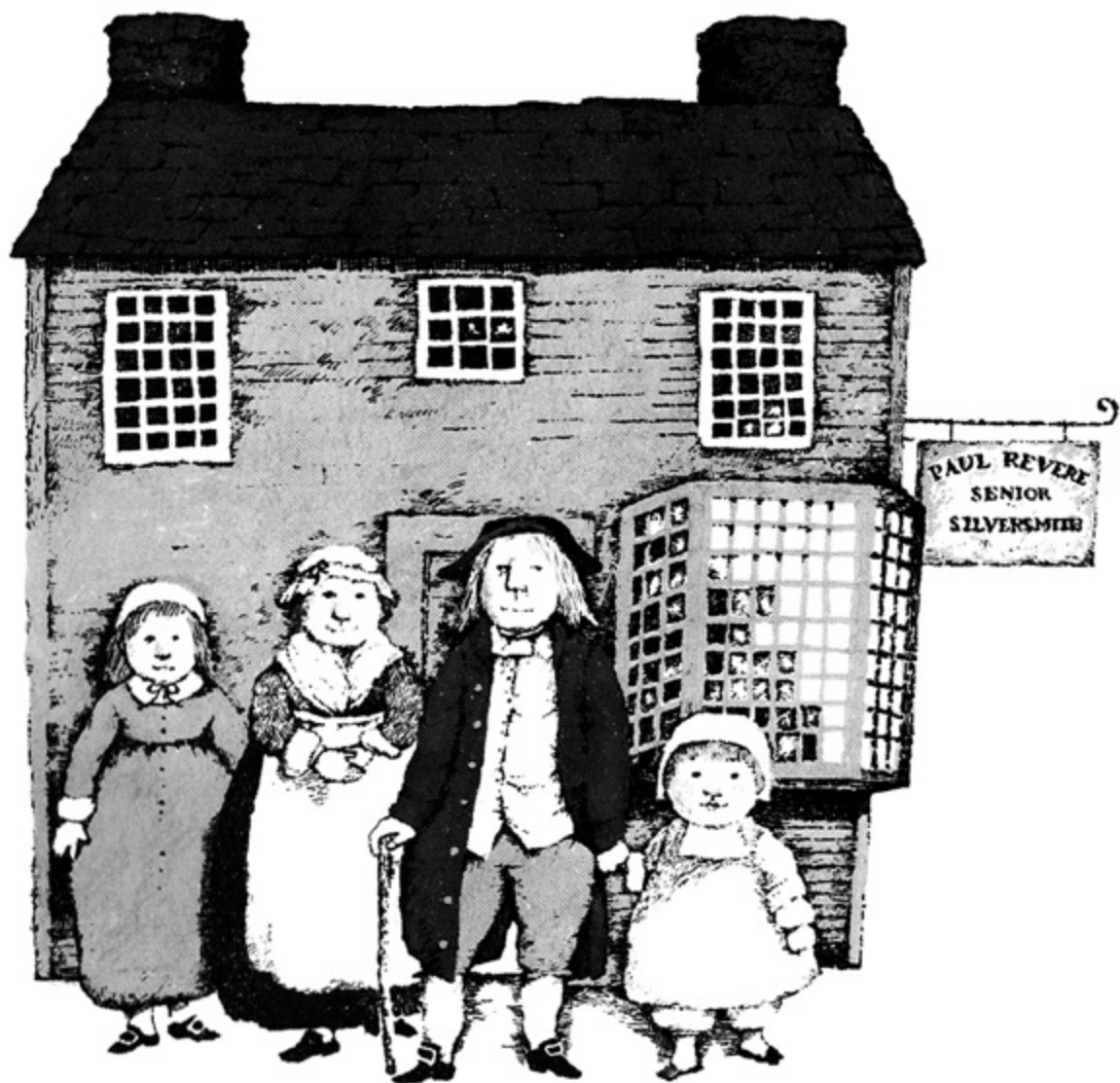
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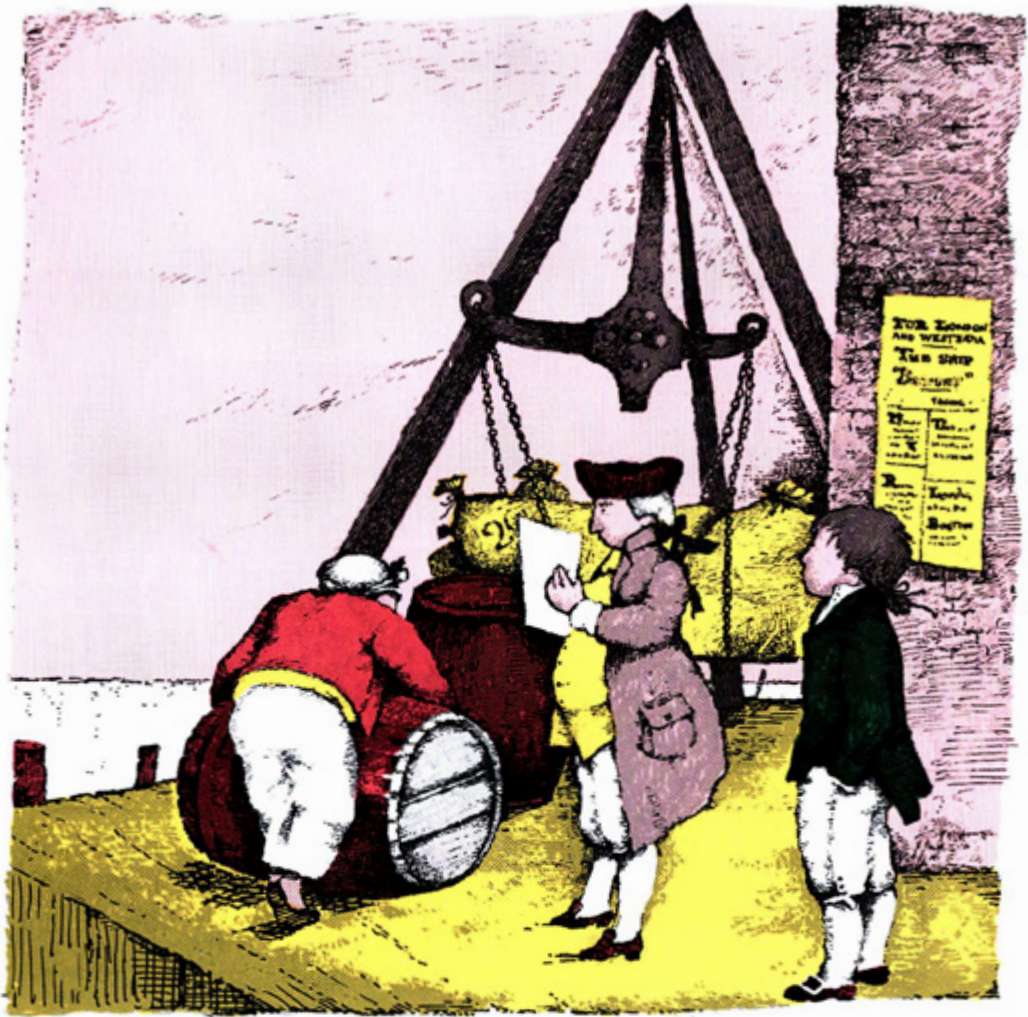
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To Jeremy and Jason



In 1735 there were in Boston 42 streets, 36 lanes, 22 alleys, 1,000 brick houses, 2,000 wooden houses, 12 churches, 4 schools, 418 horses (at the last count), and so many dogs that a law was passed prohibiting people from having dogs that were more than 10 inches high. But it was difficult to keep dogs from growing more than 10 inches, and few people cared to part with their 11- and 12-inch dogs, so they paid little attention to the law. In any case there were too many dogs to count.

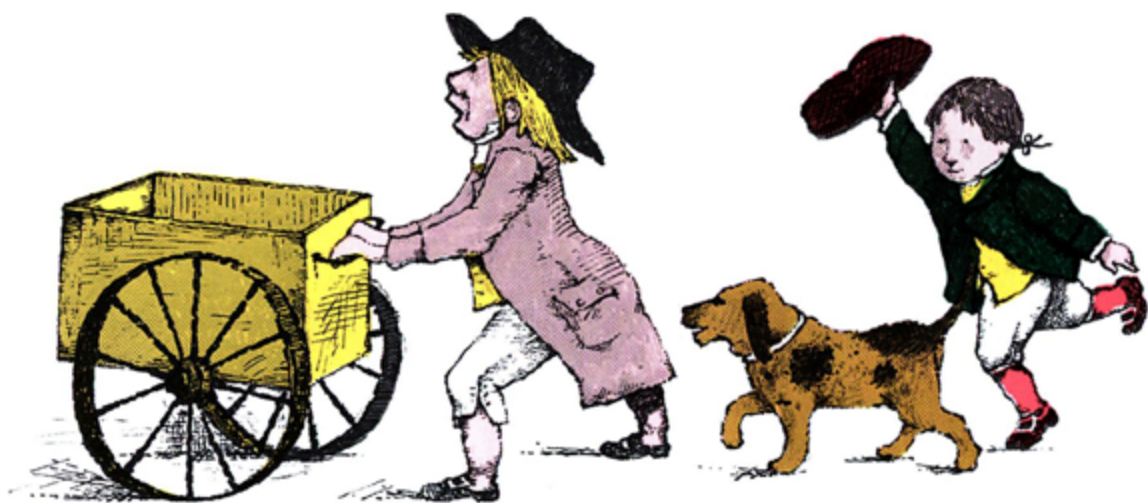
Along with the horses, streets, and alleys, there were, of course, people in Boston—more than 13,000. Four of them lived in a small wooden house on North Street near Love Lane. They were Mr. Revere, a gold and silversmith; his wife, Deborah; their daughter, Deborah; and their young son, Paul Revere, born the first day of the new year.



Of all the busy people in Boston, Paul Revere would turn out to be one of the busiest. All his life he found that there was more to do, more to make, more to see, more to hear, more to say, more places to go, more to learn than there were hours in the day.

In Boston there was always plenty to see. Ships were constantly coming and going, unloading every-

thing from turtles to chandeliers. Street vendors were constantly crying their wares—everything from fever pills to hair oil to oysters. From time to time there were traveling acrobats, performing monkeys, parades, firework displays, and fistfights.



Once there was a pickled pirate's head on exhibit;
once there was a polar bear.



And there was plenty for Paul to do. When he was fifteen years old, his father died, and Paul took over the silversmithing business. He made beads, rings, lockets, bracelets, buttons, medals, pitchers, teapots, spoons, sugar baskets, cups, ewers, porringers, shoe buckles, and candlesticks.





REVERE *PHREUcke*



Once he made a silver collar for a man's pet squirrel.



To make extra money, he took a job ringing the bells in Christ Church. In Boston, church bells were rung not just on Sundays but three times a day on weekdays, at special hours on holidays and anniversaries, for fires and emergencies, whenever a member of the congregation died, and whenever there was especially good news or especially bad news to announce. Sometimes at a moment's notice word would come that the bells were to be rung, and off Paul would run, his hat clapped to his head, his coattails flying.

Busy as he was, Paul liked to do new things. If there was excitement around, he liked to find it. In the spring of 1756, when Paul was twenty-one years old, there was, as it happened, a war close by, and Paul didn't want to miss it. French soldiers, along with Indians, were attacking the borders of the colonies. So Paul grabbed his rifle, buckled on his sword, clapped his hat to his head, and off he went—coattails flying—to defend Fort William Henry on Lake George.



And what happened?

Paul spent the summer sitting around, cleaning his rifle and polishing his sword. And swatting flies. There were thousands of flies at Lake George that summer. But there were no French or Indians.



In November the Massachusetts men were sent home. Paul went back to Boston, married Sarah Orne, and began filling up his house with children. There were



Deborah, Paul, Sarah, Mary, Frances, and Elizabeth (in addition to two babies who died young). Then Sarah



died, and Paul married Rachel Walker, and along came Joshua, Joseph, Harriet, Maria, and John (in addition to three more babies who died young).



Everyone knows about Paul Revere's big ride to Lexington.

But not everyone knows the harrowing details and narrow escapes that occurred along the way. And did you know that Paul Revere forgot his spurs on his famous ride? Or that he whittled false teeth to make extra money? Or that he had really sloppy handwriting? Or that he had sixteen children? Learn all of this—and more—about one of America's greatest patriots, Paul Revere.

★ “This good-humored, unconventional recounting of Paul Revere's life and times succeeds in humanizing the man behind the legend.”

—*Booklist*, starred review

Newbery Honor-winning author **JEAN FRITZ** brings history to life with her engaging biographies focusing on pivotal figures and events in America's history—together with wonderful interior illustrations by Margot Tomes and a cover by Caldecott Medal winner David Small.



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