

I conclude, also, that when Paul Revere wrote "North Church," he meant "Christ Church," and called it by the name which was most familiar to himself and his readers.

Although it may be thought that enough has been said to resolve all doubts, yet I may be allowed to observe that all the probabilities in the case seem to be decisive in favor of Christ Church as the place. It appears from the records of that church, as quoted by the Rev. Dr. Eaton, in his historical account, in 1823, that "the Rector, the Rev. Mather Byles, Jr., continued his services till April, 1775, and then went to Portsmouth, N.H."; and, also, that "from this time the church was closed till August, 1778." This, of course, would render it easy for Pulling — a vestryman, having authority — to have entire control of the building, and go in and out, and do as he pleased, without interruption. Besides that, the steeple of Christ Church was the very best place for hanging the lanterns, so that the lights could be seen by Conant on the beach in Charlestown, and also be concealed from the British, who were, mainly, in an opposite direction. Now, to compare these circumstances with those of the Meeting-house. As far as can be ascertained from any and every source, it was a low wooden building, with a small open belfry, in North Square, immediately opposite the soldiers' barracks, where the troops were then mustered, with sentinels at every corner and outlet. I cannot think there is the least probability that Pulling would choose such a place, where he would have found it difficult to enter without being discovered; or, if he succeeded in entering, and showing the lights, where they would have been immediately seen by the troops, and where they could not possibly be seen by Conant on the beach in Charlestown. It is true that all the streets of the North End were full of danger that night, but it is plain that the North Square was the most dangerous of all; and it seems to me that the North Meeting-house, in the North Square, was the very last place that Paul Revere and John Pulling — who were not deficient in prudence and discretion — would have been likely to choose for their operations on that eventful night.

There is much more of this kind of evidence which might be brought forward; but I will only add, at present, that some weight should be given to the fact that the two traditions, though disagreeing as to the man, yet concur in representing Christ Church as the place; and that it was the sexton of Christ Church who was suspected and arrested, "because the lights were shown from the steeple of that building."

And now, sir, I cannot but think that these considerations will be sufficient to remove the doubts which may have arisen in the minds of others; and — in the absence of any evidence to the contrary, or in favor of any other place — to incline them to believe that the "steeple of Christ Church" was the place where John Pulling "showed the lights," at the request of his friend Paul Revere.

But, whatever may be the result, I feel well assured that these views will receive impartial consideration; and am, sir,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN LEE WATSON.

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