

## North Battery, about 1762

UNTIL recent years the only known representation of Revere's engraving of the North Battery was the original copper-plate owned for eighty years or more by the Massachusetts Historical Society. About twenty years ago an original impression of the plate, filled in with the names of the officers concerned, was found in the possession of Mrs. William H. Eddy, of Providence, Rhode Island, and in 1949 was acquired by the American Antiquarian Society.

The copper-plate owned by the Historical Society was first brought to light in 1877, when in the *Proceedings* of the Society for that year, Volume 15, page 364, it was reproduced in an impression from the copper. J. H. Daniels, copper-plate printer of Boston, pulled the impressions. In 1882 it again appeared, as a restrike, in J. H. Stark's *Antique Views of Boston*, page 193. In 1903, in Samuel A. Green's *Ten Fac-simile Reproductions relating to Various Subjects*, it was once more struck from the original copper. John L. Watson, in his *Paul Revere's Signal*, 1880, reproduced as a frontispiece to his pamphlet only the pictorial part of the engraving, omitting the certificate, as also in *Boston in the Revolution*, 1888, page 16. It appeared in reduced form in E. H. Goss's *Life of Paul Revere*, 1891, Volume 1, page 76, and entirely and inaccurately redrawn as a line cut in Justin Winsor's *Memorial History of Boston*, 1881, Volume 2, page 130.

Restrikes were frequently issued separately, some on early crown water-marked paper. One restrike in the Massachusetts Historical Society has only the engraved view, with descriptive title below, "The North Battery, Boston," and is endorsed "Gift of J. H. Daniels, Apr. 30, 1885." Another restrike has the endorsement "Gift Thos. G. Frothingham, Jan. 28, 1896."

The original impression, size  $5\frac{7}{8}$  inches high by  $7\frac{5}{8}$  wide, the only known copy owned by the American Antiquarian Society, is shown on Plate no. 2. It has the water-mark "G R," with parallel chain-marks from top to bottom of

plate exactly one inch apart. Several gouges and defects on the copper-plate, as shown in the restrikes, do not show in the original impression. The view shows the buildings and fortification of the North Battery, with a background of the North end, with Christ Church prominently displayed, and that part of Charlestown beyond Charles River. It was engraved by Paul Revere in the early 1760's and must have been one of his first engravings. North Battery was built at Merry's Point in the mid-seventeenth century, and was continuously repaired to the time of the Revolution. It was destroyed late in the eighteenth century and no remains, at the present site of Battery Wharf, are to be seen today.

The certificate is filled in with the name of Ralph Morgan as montross, or artilleryman, April 18, "in the Tenth Year of his Majesty's reign," hence 1770, and is signed by John Ruddock, Captain. Ralph Morgan came from Dorchester, but was married to Elizabeth Parker in Boston, August 11, 1768. John Ruddock was prominent in Boston official life, was a selectman and Justice of the Peace and of the Quorum for Suffolk County. He commanded the North Battery for thirteen years. The *Boston Evening Post* of September 7, 1772, prints a long obituary, stating that Justice Ruddock died September 2, in the sixtieth year of his age. In a letter of John Andrews, printed in the *Proceedings* of the Massachusetts Historical Society in 1865, Volume 8, page 322, he records under date of September 3, 1772: "Yesterday died old Justice Ruddock, the most corpulent man among us, weighing, they say, between 5 and 600 weight." John Ruddock was the direct ancestor of Mrs. William H. Eddy, from whom the American Antiquarian Society acquired the print. The line of ancestry went as follows — Ruth Story Devereux Eddy, Robert Devereux, Robert W. Devereux, Tabitha Story who married Nathaniel K. Devereux, Ruth Ruddock who married Elisha Story, John Ruddock.